Daily Report

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Cuba

Further on Release of POW From Somali Prison

FL2308131588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Orlando Cardoso Villavicencio, the young Cuban internationalist, was released in Ethiopia at 0830 today when a prisoner exchange took place between Ethiopia and Somalia. Orlando Cardoso, who was a prisoner of war for more than 10 years, always remained loyal to the Cuban revolution and retained solidarity with the Ethiopian people. Throughout the time of his confinement, Cuban officials and the Ethiopian Government made numerous attempts to obtain his release through the International Committee of the Red Cross and various institutions and figures from other countries.

Red Cross Head on Release

FL2408021088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2308 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Dr Esmildo Gutierrez Sanchez, secretary general of the Cuban Red Cross, by Tony Gonzalez Martin of the Radio Rebelde Telephone Division during "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres—live]

[Text] [Gonzalez] Good evening, Doctor.

[Gutierrez] Good evening, Tony.

[Gonzalez] Doctor, you just heard the news on Rebelde's "Exclusivo"—I'm sure you knew about it prior to this—that Cuba's Orlando Cardoso Villavicencio was released today after more than 10 years in Somali prisons. Could you expand on this matter, which gives us so much pleasure, for the "Exclusivo" audience?

[Gutierrez] Yes, Tony. We knew more than 2 weeks ago that negotiations were being held between Ethiopia and Somalia for an exchange of prisoners between the two countries....

[Torres, interrupting] Tony, Doctor, please excuse me. If you have a radio close to the phone, could you lower it a bit because it is causing some interference. I don't know if Tony has the radio or the doctor has it. Please continue.

[Gonzalez] Thank you, Daniel. Please go ahead, Doctor.

[Gutierrez] As I was saying, we knew more than 2 weeks ago that talks, serious negotiations, were being held between the two countries to exchange prisoners. We were never absolutely sure if the Cuban prisoner would be included in this exchange because there had been previous exchanges from which he was excluded. We don't understand how this was possible, but that's the way it happened.

Nevertheless, they told us about 2 weeks ago that on the 23d, today, Cardoso Villavicencio would depart for Ethiopia with a group of Ethiopian officials and soldiers as part of an exchange. I received a call from Geneva today at noon confirming that sometime after 1100—0500 Havana time—Cardoso arrived in Diredawa, Ethiopia, where he is now.

His health condition is acceptable. As you know, he's lost his sight in one eye. He can see with his other eye with glasses; he's nearsighted. We don't know all the details, but he'll be completely checked in Cuba. A Cuban team has traveled to Ethiopia to receive him.

[Gutierrez] Did family members also go with them?

[Gonzalez] I was told that his mother and brother went with them.

I imagine it's very difficult for him. According to the information I received continuously from the International Red Cross Committee, it's very difficult after 10 years—more than 10 years—of being in solitary confinement. Cardoso was not even able to speak to his jailers. He couldn't talk to them. He only spoke to the delegates of the International Red Cross Committee when they visited him. Imagine what it must be like to be in a cell under uncertain conditions. He spoke only to the walls, to himself, or the Red Cross delegates who have given him above average, exquisite, very humane attention. This is in contrast to the position of the Ethiopian [as heard] authorities in this case. They've practically held him hostage. He's considered to be the oldest prisoner of war, the one who's been held in prison for the longest amount of time.

[Gonzalez] You're referring to the treatment given by Somali authorities?

[Gutierrez] Yes, Somali authorities. I think that he will return to Cuba within the next few days. He will undergo a rigorous medical checkup taking into consideration the number of tropical diseases that prevail in Somalia, for example, malaria. Cardoso will also receive psychological support. He'll also have an opportunity to be with his family. Later we'll have a chance to hear his views on his lengthy imprisonment.

We have kept in contact with him through the International Red Cross. He has exchanged letters with his family. Some have taken as long as a year to get here, but at least the correspondence was maintained.

This comrade was last visited on 14 November 1987 by a doctor. The doctor—he was Swiss—came to Cuba and met with Cardoso's mother and family members. He also met with us, the Cuban Red Cross. He informed us of Cardoso's health and he informed us of his magnificent morale, which is something very important. He maintained this morale despite his imprisonment in Somalia.

[Gonzalez] Thank you, Doctor, for this report for Rebelde's "Exclusivo." Cardoso was imprisoned on 22 January 1978 after he was seriously injured. Now, 2 years [as heard] and 7 months later, we have him among us once again.

Again, thank you very much, Doctor.

UN Group To Evaluate Human Rights Situation

PA2108200288 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Report by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] UN Human Rights Commission officials, led by commission President Alioune Sene, will arrive in Cuba during the next few weeks to conduct an on-site verification of the way civil rights are respected on that Caribbean island.

The decision to visit Cuba was made at the commission's 44th session, which took place in March in Geneva, Switzerland. A large-scale political battle ensued there after the United States, in an attempt to politicize the forum and to attack Cuba, tried to get the commission to issue a statement condemning Cuba for alleged human rights violations.

In 1987, during the commission's 43d session, the White House tried similar maneuvers after conducting a campaign with the aid of the powerful U.S. media and threatening countries with economic, political, and even military sanctions if they refused to go along with the anti-Cuban campaign.

Prior to this year's session, the United States appointed Armando Valladares, a phony and a terrorist of Cuban origin, to serve as U.S. representative to the commission. This was interpreted as a violation of the most basic rules of decorum and diplomacy and an insult to the U.S. people and the international public.

The anti-Cuban maneuvers failed. Our government's invitation to impartial observers to visit Cuba and the unity among Latin American nations—which welcomed and promoted the Cuban proposal—defeated the U.S. attempt to obtain approval of a libelous resolution.

When the officials sent by the UN commission arrive in Havana in the coming weeks, they will be given every opportunity to visit penal institutions and to see for themselves the effectiveness of our prisoner rehabilitation programs. They will also come into contact with another dimension of human rights observance in Cuba: the efforts and satisfactory results of state programs to guarantee that the people's basic needs—such as access to education, employment, and health services—are met.

CDR Urged To Fight Antisocial Behavior

FL2308214588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1958 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] One of the most pressing tasks of the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] at this time is to reinforce revolutionary vigilance and the ideological fight against the incorrect conduct and antisocial behavior of some citizens, said Armando Acosta Cordero, national coordinator of the mass organization, who closed a meeting with community-based leaders in La Lisa municipality, Havana City Province.

During the meeting, the participants analyzed a call made to all CDR members by the national directorate. After reporting that the document will be discussed by each CDR during the first 2 weeks of September, Acosta Cordero stressed the need for the mass organization to focus its forces and energy against acts of social indiscipline. He called on CDR members to be more combative against intolerable acts and he cited their moral responsibility to confront any antisocial behavior.

The national coordinator of the CDR reiterated that the street belongs and will continue to belong to revolutionaries. Those youths who went to Angola when the fatherland called are brave, he said. In Cuito Cuanavale they made the racist South Africans taste defeat, Acosta Cordero said. Those braggarts who attempt to disrupt order are not brave, he added.

Our combative brothers, the police, will also participate in this ideological battle, added the CDR national coordinator. He stressed that the meeting will be the starting point for renewing the organization's work spirit.

The participants in the meeting also analyzed the progress of blood donations, the collection of raw materials, and other CDR tasks in La Lisa.

FAO Agreement on Emergency Food Aid Reported

FL2308144088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] The FAO has agreed to provide emergency food aid to Ethiopia, Mozambique, Mauritania, and Cuba amounting to $8 million. The assistance will be given through the World Food Program to these countries which have been affected by natural disasters.

Briefs

Hotels Built in Varadero

The UNECA [Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises] branch in Varadero is currently building 6 hotels with approximately 1,500 rooms. It was reported that construction of three other hotels and housing complexes for tourist villas will begin next month. [Text] [*FL2308150088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Aug 88*]

Haiti

Group in Support of 1987 Constitution Formed

FL2308213888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpt] A campaign in favor of the Constitution of 1987 has just been initiated. The movement has just been launched. A number of citizens have already signed the document launching the movement. Here is how the document was formulated:

A group of patriots faithful to the Constitution of 1987, very much afraid because it was too often violated and trampled upon and then finally destroyed by the head of the military government with a single blow of his hand despite all the commitments he and his brothers in arms made after swearing they would always remain loyal to it, met on 4 August 1988 to invite the population to once again show its support for the Constitution, the way it did on 29 March 1987.

This group of patriots asks all democratic organizations to sign this communique and also to prepare to dress in white, the way the Haitian people did on 29 March 1987, on a day to be designated Constitution Day. In this way they will show clearly their determination to hang on to and defend the 1987 Constitution. [passage omitted]

Unity Committee Says 'Dictatorship Must Die'

FL2308222888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The Unity Committee for the Respect of the Constitution has issued a press release on the recent incidents that have just shaken Haiti. It says:

The authorities have been saying since 7 February 1986 that they want democracy and that they want to respect human rights, but what they say and what they do are two different things. After thwarting the 29 November elections, after the phony 17 January elections, after the 19-20 June coup d'etat, and after abolishing the Constitution, now the plan to destroy all the democratic organizations is proceeding with a vengeance. Meanwhile, they walk around repeating that they still want democracy and respect for human rights. [passage omitted]

The Unity Committee for the Respect of the Constitution extends its sympathies and condolences to all the victims of the latest incidents and their families. At the same time, it reiterates, together with the entire Haitian people, a truth that is absolutely clear: The Haitian people must not die. Rather, the dictatorship must die.

In order for this to happen, all patriotic citizens—be they rich, poor, workers, employers, professionals, peasants, church people, non-church people, practitioners of voodoo, non-practitioners of voodoo—must manage to form the huge avalanche that the entire Haitian people already see is needed.

Government 'Sabotage' in Artibonite Denounced

FL2308223888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] The Coordinating Body of People's Organizations of the Artibonite [Copol] denounces the murderous acts of sabotage that the government in Port-au-Prince is committing against the people's movement in the area.

In addition to the Labadie massacre and the destruction of the training center in the Artibonite, Copol points out the arrest of a group of young people during a meeting at the Catholic Church in Bosou on 17 August. It also points out the many acts of repressive vandalism committed in a number of peasant locales in the Artibonite, particularly in Fonds Verrettes and Desarmes.

Copol sees these acts as systematic cleanup actions aimed at totally dismantling forever all democratic organizations in the Artibonite area. Consequently, it asks all its members to remain alert and vigilant and to unite against all these vile acts.

Peasant Group Protests Restrictions on Assembly

FL2308225488 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] The National Federation of Haitian Agricultural Workers and Peasants [Fenatapa] says:

Considering the decision reached to forbid assemblies unless there is a member of the Army participating in them;

Considering all the wheeling and dealing going on to reinstate the former "yes-man" community council system;

Considering the arbitrary arrests and massacres of peasant leaders, all aimed at intimidating those committed to the struggle; and

Considering the division these same men are creating among the peasants,

Fenatapa says it cannot understand how the government can officially recognize an organization on the national level and yet not allow that organization to hold a meeting in a rural section without the knowledge of the Army.

The section chiefs and Casecs [Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections] imposed on the population say they are acting under orders. But from whom did they receive those orders? If the orders were official, you would think that they would not be the only people to know about them.

What's worse, it is the Casecs, who, (?as peasants), should stand with the peasants instead of trying to bury them by denouncing them.

Fenatapa denounces what happened in (Joannis), one of Gonaives' rural sections, where the Fenatapa-affiliated peasants union has been obliged to divide because the development advisers chose the union's committee members themselves to become their community council leaders. They took down the names of all those who refused to become council members. Is this not an attack on a person's right to join whatever organization he chooses?

Fenatapa says it thinks it will always have problems with the development advisers in the field, because until they are formally advised that the Fenatapa is not recognized, it will never wait for an authorization to hold a meeting or a seminar.

They say they do not wish to conclude their note without asking the peasants to remain mobilized and be very vigilant, and not to allow anyone to divide them—not even if money is involved. Forget about promises, they say, because they spent 30 years hearing promises and nothing ever came of them. It is always promises, promises without delivering.

This was a reaction from Fenatapa.

23 Aug 1987 Pont Sonde Incident Recalled

FL2308222488 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Exactly 1 year ago a group of murderers appeared at an assembly being held in a former factory in Pont Sonde in commemoration of the small peasant farmers of Jean-Rabel who had been murdered on 23 July 1987. At the moment that Pont Sonde parish priest Max Dominique was introducing Father Jean Bertrand Aristide, the murderers began shooting. One person attending the assembly was wounded and everyone scattered. [passage omitted] We will hear how it happened, and we will hear the statements of people who witnessed the incident, people who were there and saw exactly what happened.

[Begin recording] [Father Dominique] It is not someone who wants to be noticed. Father Jean Bertrand Aristide is a servant of God, a servant of the Gospel, a servant of Haiti, a servant of the Haitian people, a servant of the poor of Haiti. We are happy to see him among us. We will applaud Father Aristide a second time. [applause, cheering, drums] Father Aristide has just had a very hard week. Not only did many peasants die in Jean-Rabel but he was also heartbroken because as a priest, he was forced to leave his community, [single shot heard; crowd murmurs] to leave his post... [more shots, crowd noises heard] [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Did you see the men who fired?

[Speaker] Yes. Six men.

[Reporter] Six of them?

[Speaker] Yes.

[Reporter] Do you recognize them? Are they from around here?

[Speaker] No, I don't know them. The only one I know, really, is the corporal, but (?I don't know his name). As I was going after the men, the corporal told me that if I went after the men to kill them, I would die too.

[Reporter] Where is this corporal posted?

[Speaker] In the Pont Sonde barracks, but I don't know his name.

[Reporter] You don't know his name but you do know that he is from the Pont Sonde barracks.

[Speaker] Yes. As I was running after the men, I said: Corporal, there's hope for me. There they are, ahead of you. Help me. He said: If you go after them, it is you who will die.

[Reporter] Was the corporal with them?

[Speaker] He was behind. They were in front. At your slightest gesture, he would kill you for them.

[Reporter] You mean people present chased them?

[Speaker] Oh yes, particularly me. There were several of us. We were yelling "help, help, help" to see if someone could help. Then, when I saw the corporal, I had hopes. I said: Corporal, help me. There they are, in civvies, with revolvers in their hands. The corporal said: No, go back. If you continue, you will lose your life. I said: No, Corporal, you've got to help me. You're my only hope. He said: I'm not going to die for you. But by then I had already seen how things were, that it was a planned thing.

[Reporter] Where are they now? Do you know?

[Speaker] I saw them pass; they entered the barracks. Then they came back out of the barracks. They took their vehicle and headed for Saint-Marc.

[Reporter] They were in a vehicle?

[Speaker] Yes, in a grey bus... [corrects himself] I mean jeep. But I did not have time to get the license number.

[Reporter] Was it a private jeep?

[Speaker] It was an Army jeep. Since I cannot tell male birds from female birds, I cannot give you the driver's name. For I don't know who loves me and who does not.

[Reporter] But you could give the name, if you wanted to?

[Speaker] Yes, I could.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Does (?this man) sometimes come through here?

[First speaker] Yes, all the time.

[Second speaker] He was there (?Saturday).

[Third speaker] They were there since morning, in the barracks over there, at the outpost over there [words indistinct]. They heard Father Aristide was coming, and they said they would wait. They came from Saint-Marc in the morning and they waited at the outpost.

[Reporter] You are in the habit of seeing that jeep around here, too?

[Second speaker] Often, often. It's there every day. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Are you in the habit of seeing it with a license plate? Or does it never have a license plate?

[Second speaker] It always has a license.

[Reporter] And today it didn't have one?

[Second speaker] I can't say. I didn't notice. [passage omitted]

[Third speaker] It is a Haitian Army vehicle.

[Reporter] An Army vehicle?

[Third speaker] Yes, it always has Army plates. It brings policemen here every Saturday to inspect the marketplace. [passage omitted including indistinct portions] [end recording]

Well, that wasn't all. Right after that, the group of thugs went to Freycinau, at the entrance to Montrouis, where they prepared an ambush for everyone coming from the ceremony. They already had the license plate numbers of all the cars present at the ceremony. They set up the ambush a few meters from—very close to—the Freycinau outpost. They cut power in Saint-Marc and along the road in order to be able to operate better.

These men were wearing shorts with parts of uniforms on them. Some had weapons and others flashlights so they could verify license plate numbers. During a heavy rain, they went back and forth from the police outpost to the ambush site, verifying license plate numbers. Traffic was backed up so much that the line reached all the way to the front of the outpost. Thus, it could not fail to be noticed. Vehicles whose license plate numbers were not listed got through.

When the convoy arrived, the men said: There are the communists. And they started looking for Father Jean Bertrand Aristide. They burned one vehicle, smashed the windshields of several others, and subjected the people in the cars to a hail of rocks. [passage omitted]

Since then, this group of thugs has been very active in the Freycinau and Saint-Marc area. It has participated in many actions, in collaboration with many other bigshots. It is reported that this group roams all over the Artibonite area and that it participated in many things that were done on the occasion of the 29 November elections. [passage omitted]

On 25 May 1988, at approximately 2000, there was a great deal of shooting in Freycinau during a political meeting held at the initiative of a political party from Port-au-Prince that (?has asked to remain) anonymous. The group Club Verite, also known as the group of thugs from Freycinau, showed up at the meeting and started shooting. Six people were wounded by bullets and machetes. The Army later said several arrests had been made but no one from the group of thugs was arrested. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners this is not the first time the presence of this group of thugs from Freycinau has been noted at the entrance to Saint-Marc, and to this day no one knows what exactly this group is, or who forms it. It is reported that this group operates not only in Freycinau but roams all over the Artibonite, and that it is this group that has participated in many massacres and criminal acts committed in the Artibonite against church people and people involved in the organization of the November 1987 elections. [passage omitted]

This group, whose slogan is "Antistrikes, antidemonstrations, anticommunist," celebrated its anniversary the other day, and several bigshots were present. We point out that according to reports we have received, several clubs such as the Club Fraternite in Jeremie have been organized in Haiti. In several other places, such as Les Cayes, such clubs already existed and are today being strengthened.

Final Presidential Election Results Released

PA2308232388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2050 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 23 Aug (EFE)—While the Mexican Government officially released a full report on the election results last night, PRI Secretary General Manuel Camacho Solis said that the party must do away with its traditional hegemonic position.

Last night Fernando Elias Calles, Government Secretariat undersecretary, reported that PRI, in power since 1929, received 9,165,222 votes, or 51.7 percent, during the 6 July elections.

According to figures that Calles delivered to a multiparty commission of the new assembly, the National Action Party (PAN) was close behind with 3,248,016 votes, or 18.72 percent, followed by the Party of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction (PFCRN), with 2,681,000 votes, or 9.48 percent.

Next came the Popular Socialist Party with 1,650,462 votes, or 9.31 percent; the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution with 1,092,168 votes, or 6.16 percent; the Mexican Socialist Party with 802,525, or 4.53 percent; and the Revolutionary Workers Party with 88,455 votes, or 0.50 percent. [passage omitted]

Certification of Deputy Results Continues

Vote Totals Released

PA2308132088 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Report by Salvador Estrada]

[Text] At no time did the Federal Electoral Commission [CFE] conceal information, said Fernando Elias Calles, under secretary of government and CFE technical secretary, when he turned over to an Electoral College multiparty commission the results of the elections for federal deputies from the almost 55,000 polling booths:

[Begin Elias recording] We are going to present to you the results of each of the total 54,642 polling booths. This information was obtained from the 54,642 vote-result records, which, as we have repeatedly stated, have been in the possession of all the delegates of the parties. [end recording]

Fernando Elias Calles reported that the results from these polling booths are as follows: 3,248,006 votes for the National Action Party [PAN]; 9,165,022 for PRI; 1,659,472 for the Popular Socialist Party [PPS]; 223,216 for the Mexican Democratic Party [PDM]; 802,525 for the Mexican Socialist Party; 1,681,710 for the Party of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction [PFCRN]; 88,455 for the Revolutionary Workers Party [PRT]; and 1,092,168 for the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution [PARM].

The multiparty commission members said that with this information, there will be no doubts. The members receiving the information were Norberto Corrella of PAN, Hector Ixclagua of PRI, Jose Antonio Hernandez of the PPS, Osiris Samuel Cantu of the PMS, Jose Enrique Rojas of the PFCRN, and Gilberto Osqueda Negrete of PARM.

15 Deputies Certified

FL2308181088 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1841 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The PRI parliamentary faction at the Electoral College has announced its intention of having the college declare itself in permanent session so that the activities regarding certification of presumed deputies are completed within the time frame required by the Constitution. To achieve this, Miguel Montes Garcia explained from the Chamber of Deputies' podium that a document will be submitted including the minimum certification criteria.

Montes Garcia, chairman of the first certifying commission, said he believes that the Electoral College should be in permanent session because of certification delays.

Up to now, 38 electoral districts have been approved and one—San Luis Potosi's third district—was returned to the commissions for a new decision.

A total of 22 certifications have been issued in the session which began Friday [19 August] at 1000 and ended Monday [22 August] at 0600. Sixteen of them were from the PRI, three for the right-wing National Action Party, and three for the center-leftist National Democratic Front.

During the work which began on Sunday [21 August] the following cases were approved: Jose Guadalupe Vega Macias, from San Luis Potosi's second district; Nicodemus Santos, from Veracruz' 16th district; Rafael Pedro Garay, from Mexico's 9th district; Juan Enrique Ibarra, from Jalisco's 7th district; and Francisco Sanchez Rodriguez, from Veracruz' 8th district. All of them are from PRI.

Likewise, the meeting approved by majority the victories of Ramon Alejo Valdez, from Sinaloa's 1st district; Cecilio Barrera Reyes, Mexico's 26th district; Jose Federico Schiaffino, from the Federal District's 20th district; Francisco Galindo Musa, from Jalisco's 9th district; and Jose Luis Alfonso, from the Federal District's 31st district. They are all also from PRI.

The wins of PAN members Federico Ruiz Lopez, from the Federal District's 36th district, and Abel Vicencio Tovar, state of Mexico's 18th district, were also acknowledged.

Luis Coca, Octavio Ortiz Melgarejo, and Iran Rivera Reja, from Michoacan's 10th, 1st, and 8th districts, respectively, were approved under the coalition formed by the Cardenist Front, the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution, and People's Socialist Party.

Speakers Condemn Murders

PA2308182088 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Report by Dalila Antuna]

[Text] The Electoral College plenum examined and approved another 15 relative majority deputy seats. During a 14-hour session, 11 federal deputy seats were ratified in favor of PRI, two for the National Action Party, and two for the Cardenist front coalition.

The new deputies will form part of the 54th legislature of the national Chamber of Deputies. Eight days after the installation of the Electoral College, approval has been given to 53 of the 300 relative majority cases, and 200 plurality cases still have to be examined.

All the legislative factions have taken the chamber floor to comment on the slow pace at which, for various reasons, the cases have been examined. For this reason, the Cardenist Front, the parties that support it, and even the PRI have considered the possibility of turning the Electoral College's deliberations into a permanent session, so as to speed up the certification of members and the unhindered completion of the 54th legislature.

Yesterday, the session started at midday to examine 16 cases; however, speeches by various speakers led to other discussions.

The public gallery, which had been filled by partisan supporters in earlier sessions, was now empty. The college president decided to bar the general public from further attending the sessions because of the crowd's unruliness. However, deputies-elect from PAN and the Mexican Socialist Party requested that the general public be allowed to attend the sessions and urged all political fronts to maintain order and discipline so as to not interrupt the Electoral College's deliberations. Their request was approved, and by 1500 the public gallery was filled.

Later, addressing the Electoral College plenum, Deputies-Elect Carlos Navarrete of the PMS and Octavio Moreno Toscano of the Cardenist Front condemned the murders of four youths, members of both the Front and the Committee for the Defense of the Vote, in Naucalpan.

Several more speakers from all the other parties also condemned the murders. On behalf of PRI, Deputy-Elect Socorro Diaz Palacios strongly protest the murders, stating that it is everyone's responsibility to keep Mexico from falling into the abyss of violence, anarchy, and the law of the jungle. It was then agreed that the Electoral College would demand that the government and the appropriate authorities solve these crimes and that the full weight of the law fall upon the culprits.

On a different matter, the multiparty commission, which went before the Federal Electoral Commission, reported to the plenum that, heeding the Electoral College's request, commission Technical Secretary Fernando Elias Calles gave the precint-by-precint results of the elections for federal deputies.

Today, starting at 1000, the Electoral College will resume its certification of more cases.

Cardenas: Youths' Murder 'Intimidatory Maneuver'

PA2308135088 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Mexico City, Federal District, 22 Aug (REUTER)—Today Mexican opposition leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas said the murder last Saturday of four young activists is an intimidatory manuever.

"It is an action against people like us who are struggling for change in this country," said Cardenas, who placed second in the recent presidential elections, during the funeral of the murdered youths.

The bodies of the youths, 16-18 years old, were found inside an abandoned car in a Mexico City neighborhood on 20 August.

The youths were bullet-riddled at point-blank range; two of them had been tortured.

During the funeral, which was attended by about 500 people, the youths were described as activists of Cardenas' center-leftist National Democratic Front.

One of the murdered youths was the son a former leftist candidate for the Mexican Congress.

The police said they are investigating the possibility that political motives were behind the homicides; they dismissed robbery as a motive because the youths' belongings were not taken.

A close Cardenas collaborator and his chauffeur were found shot to death inside their car in this capital 3 days before the 6 July elections. That case has not yet been solved. [passage omitted]

Costa Rica

Arias Inaugurates Foreign Service Institute

PA2208235488 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpt] On inaugurating the Manuel Maria de Peralta Foreign Service Institute, which will offer diplomatic service training for Costa Rican citizens, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said: A country without an army, like ours, must have an exemplary Foreign Ministry.

In addition, Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Rivera Bianchini has reported that the Foreign Ministry will very soon have a modern electronic information and communications system to automatically (?process) and select large volumes of information. He said the system will help store data related to local and international legislation, the history of treaties, and political and economic situations, all of which will be available at a glance.

Rivera said the ability to (?handle) information related to foreign service will enable the country to properly and quickly meet the challenges that Costa Rica faces in the world. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

FMLN 'Executes' Mayor as 'War Criminal'

PA2408013988 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0031 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Communique issued by the FMLN in El Salvador on 22 August]

[Text] FMLN communique to Salvadorans:

1. Our guerrilla forces captured Lolotiquillo Mayor Dolores Molina when we seized control of that community on 21 August.

2. Mayors actively participate in the regime's counterinsurgency operations by forming civil defense groups and disinformation networks and by criminally repressing the people.

3. As is true of all Christian Democratic officials, mayors are bloodstained with repression and sullied with the dollars of corruption.

The FMLN, thus, reports that war criminal Dolores Molina has been executed.

We reaffirm that we will not allow the presence of municipal officials, the formation of any civil defense group, or the implementation of counterinsurgency plans such as CONARA [National Commission for Reconstruction] in locations where our forces have an influence.

We call upon Christian Democrats to abandon this party that criminally represses the people, that has sold out the country's sovereignty, and that is rotten with corrupt dollars. We call on Christian Democrats to abandon this party because it is neither democratic nor Christian, because it is a despicable instrument of crime and repression against the people.

El Salvador, 22 August 1988
FMLN

Honduras

Local Guerrillas Said Training in Nicaragua

PA2408011788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2357 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 23 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaragua is reportedly providing training in guerrilla warfare to some 3,000 Hondurans, who will soon launch an offensive against the Honduran Government, it was reported today in Tegucigalpa by the radio station HRN [Voz de Honduras Network].

The radio station claimed that, based on information sent from its reporters in the eastern zone of Honduras, "the 3,000 Hondurans are being trained by the Sandinist government's Cuban and Bulgarian military advisers."

The same source stated that, according to its information, the Hondurans are in guerrilla training camps located in the communities of Apanas, Esteli, and Managua.

HRN also indicated that the Honduran Armed Forces have information regarding the guerrillas' subversive plans and are prepared to repel any armed group that enters Honduran territory from Nicaragua.

Nevertheless, the Armed Forces Public Information Directorate did not confirm or deny the HRN report to ACAN-EFE. [passage omitted]

11,000 Contras Reportedly in Country

PA2308170888 Paris AFP in Spanish 2204 GMT 22 Aug 88

[By Winston Calix]

[Excerpt] Capire, Honduras, 22 Aug (AFP)—Approximately 11,000 armed contras are continously training for war in their camps in eastern Honduras, on the border with Nicaragua, AFP confirmed today during a tour of the area.

Members of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) are seen in small groups, beginning at the entrance into Capire, in eastern Paraiso Department, 12 km from the border. Until January 1987, the anti-Sandinists called this community "Managuita," capital of a 450-square-km area that the insurgents named "new Nicaragua."

Less than 1 km to the east of Capire is the first RN camp from which part of the supplies for the contras are distributed. It is composed of three sheds with wooden walls and zinc roofs and about five tents that house 200 insurgents.

When AFP visited the camp, some contras were involved in carpentry work, others were moving supplies, and others were milling about or resting in the tents.

Further on, up to the sector of Yamales, 30 km from the border, are the camps where most of the RN army members are located. Commander Relampago, the rebels' logistics support chief, told AFP that the RN army currently comprises 18,000 men.

According to Relampago, there are currently about 11,000 combatants, including 1,050 who entered in the last few days because of their precarious situation in Nicaragua.

The concentration of contras in Honduras had not reached such high numbers since January 1987, when there were 10,000-12,000 in Capire, most of whom subsequently crossed the border and 4,000 of whom were relocated in the area of Yamales.

Commander Relampago said that "combatants will continue to come from Nicaragua, because of the lack of food, weapons, and ammunition."

The troops in Honduras, he said, also have needs, because we have a shortage of boots, uniforms, medicine, weapons, and ammunition to continue the war.

Nevertheless, he said that "although we greatly need military aid, the troops are very enthusiastic; their morale never drops. We can be barefoot but our morale is high."

"We have not had desertions despite this situation," he said with evident enthusiasm.

The rebel leader said that "we are preparing for a possible resumption of fighting," and the men "are in movement, exercising and training to be ready at any moment." [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Managua Denies Training of Honduran Guerrillas

PA2408024688 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] A strange report from Honduras has just reached us at La Voz de Nicaragua. The report states that 3,000 Honduran guerrillas are being trained by Cuban and Bulgarian advisers in Nicaragua. The report, which is absolutely false, is an attempt to create tension between Honduras and Nicaragua, and it is also an attempt to counter the accusation presented by Nicaragua at the ICJ [International Court of Justice] in The Hague against Jose Azcona's administration. Nicaragua has stated that Honduras allows the Reagan administration's Somozist mercenary bands to use its territory to attack the Nicaraguan people.

We are citing an ACAN-EFE report saying that it was reported in Tegucigalpa today that Nicaragua is providing guerrilla warfare training to approximately 3,000 Hondurans, who will soon launch an attack on the Honduran Government. The dispatch adds that the report was transmitted by Honduran radio station La Voz de Honduras Network. That is the report we have just received from Honduras, and it is completely false.

Costa Rican 'Mercenary' Reportedly Captured

PA2308222488 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 20 Aug 88 p 12

[Text] Yesterday the Defense Ministry confirmed that Costa Rican mercenary Ricardo Moreno Sequeira was captured on 16 August in a clash near the Mecateado Rapids, Nueva Guinea.

According to the initial statements by Moreno, there are four other Costa Ricans and six Panamanians fighting on the side of the Somozist mercenaries. He said they are armed with U.S.-made anti-aircraft missiles.

Four Somozists were killed and the Costa Rican was slightly wounded in the clash in which he was captured. Moreno entered the counterrevolutionary ranks at the end of May.

The Defense Ministry report added that Moreno will be presented to the public within the next few hours so that he can provide more details of his terrorist activities with the counterrevolutionaries.

The bulletin stated that the initial reports indicated that Moreno Sequeira was known as "El Tico." He is 32 years old and his parents are Antonio Sequeira and Sara Moreno. His place of residence is the Escazu neighborhood in Alajuela, Costa Rica.

That same day, and in violation of the Esquipulas agreements and the cease-fire established by the revolutionary government, a piranha-type speedboat attacked the places known as Palo Solo and El Chorro in Potosi, Chinandega Department, with machineguns.

The military report stated that the boat entered from Honduran territory and that there were no casualties or damage reported.

Pastora Plans San Jose-Managua March in Dec

PA2408012388 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Aug 88 pp 1, 8

[Article by Oscar Alvarez]

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 18 Aug—Eden Pastora, the legendary Commander Zero, decided to cancel the march to Managua scheduled for 22 August because "the appropriate political conditions, such as amnesty and freedom of speech, do not exist; instead, the commanders' regime has hardened its position."

However, in an exclusive interview, Eden Pastora announced that his group of Nicaraguan supporters plan to travel to Managua in December "to be in the fatherland on Christmas Day."

Regarding the number of marchers, Pastora said that "it cannot be predicted," but he gave assurances that the rank-and-file of his organization, ARDE, are working toward the mobilization of approximately 25,000 people, "because there are many refugees who wish to return to the fatherland."

In response to those who are skeptical about the viability of ARDE's plan, he defiantly recalled that the storming of the National Palace had to be postponed for several years.

The march from San Jose to Managua, which would take place on foot, is aimed primarily at "demonstrating opposition to the Managua regime from our position, that is, from ARDE's position."

Pastora said that inside Nicaragua, "we would work toward rescuing the revolution's original goals, which were inspired by the principles of democracy, sovereignty, liberty, and love, with messianism noticeably absent." However, Pastora made it perfectly clear that "they [Pastora's followers] would not return with messianic notions," and that they have no intention of forming a new political party, because such practices would only contribute to division within the opposition and would only be in the best interest of the Sandinist Front.

Pastora spoke of promoting a plan of national unity to unite all those opposing the consolidation of the Stalinist model of Marxist-Leninism in Nicaragua.

Before departing for Managua, Pastora proposed meeting with Ortega in Madrid, Spain, saying that the meeting could be sponsored by the Socialist International and the Christian Democratic International to "lay the cards on the table" and establish what civil liberties "we would be granted" in society.

Pastora said: "Our group is needed in Managua to project an international image of pluralism, and, in the most extreme case, a worthy and legitimate opponent to reckon with."

In the opinion of "Commander Zero," the march to Managua "would weaken the contras' chances as well as the Sandinist Front," and he emphatically proposed a third alternative—one which is truly democratic and nonaligned—as Nicaragua's only hope.

Pastora said: "Neither the Sandinists nor the Honduran Government have fulfilled the Esquipulas agreements. The Sandinist government has not granted amnesty and does not respect its commitments to democratize the country, and the Honduran Government continues supporting the FDN."

According to Pastora, the most important thing "is to end the war" through the principle of simultaneity "so that Managua has no excuses to avoid fulfilling Esquipulas" and is "forced to make political openings in Nicaragua."

Pastora warned the international public of the Nicaraguan Government's new maneuver—that through the adoption of a hard-line policy, the Nicaraguan Government is trying to create favorable conditions for negotiations. In other words, "first the government closes the communications media" and "increases the number of political prisoners" and then yields and calms down international public opinion. However, "Managua will ultimately strengthen its position."

Commander Zero said in conclusion that they will continue the struggle by peaceful means. "We do not have weapons, but God is on our side." He added: "There will be no peace in Nicaragua as long as there is no freedom."

PSC on Government Abuse of Nandaime Prisoners

PA2308025288 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Aug 88

["Press bulletin" issued by the Social Christian Party (PSC) in Managua on 9 August]

[Text] The PSC reports the harassment of the Nandaime civic heroes, who, among other things, are subjected to the following treatment:

They are taken out late at night for intensive interrogation sessions, which last approximately 1 hour. They are threatened with being put in isolation or punishment cells. They are told they can be released if they agree to work for the FSLN. In the cells, which they share with common criminals, there are EPS as well as state security members and policemen, who make life impossible for them while prison authorities look the other way.

The prisoners were denied their right to meet with International Red Cross members. They are being pressured to confess to charges that the prosecutors have levelled against them. During the interrogations, they are forced to expose the activities of their colleagues at Nandaime and are not allowed to talk about themselves.

Because the prisoners refuse to answer questions—by order of the judge—they are told that the judge is a big shit [mierda] and that state security is the one that rules things.

The prisoners are offered good food, money, and good jobs if they sign generous commitments. They are told that they are going to rot in jail otherwise.

The PSC informs national and foreign public opinion and the CPDH [Permanent Human Rights Commission] of these actions and demands urgent medical treatment for Ms Olga Marina Contrera Zamora of the JRSC [not further identified], who has serious problems with one of her ears as a result of blows she has received.

Managua, 9 August 1988

V. Chamorro on Sandinist 'Campaign of Hatred'

PA2408000588 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Aug 88 pp 1, 8

[Article by Violeta B. de Chamorro, president of LA PRENSA's Board of Directors: "In Honor of the Truth"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday at about 2100, a patrol of several policemen arrived at my residence to investigate a shower of rocks that fell on my patio at dawn on Friday, which damaged my car's windshield. According to experts at a machine shop I consulted, the windshield is now useless, because the crack on it could break open anytime and jeopardize the lives of the driver and passengers.

As I told the LA PRENSA reporter, the windshield was "totally destroyed" and I am now forced to buy a new one because I cannot afford to run the risk of driving about without having replaced it.

The presence of Sandinist police at my door horrified me because they have shown themselves to represent both the police and the Sandinist Party simultaneously. [passage omitted]

In fact, as I told a LA PRENSA reporter yesterday—although my son Carlos Fernando, BARRICADA's director, refuses to believe it—his mother's residence, the residence where he grew up, has been the target of constant showers of rocks of suspicious origin accompanied by insults and threats that I cannot repeat here.

Day after day, I receive threatening phone calls and obscene anonymous messages that keep me from sleeping at night and make the people who accompany me nervous.

The rocks that unfortunately destroyed my car's windshield yesterday—the repair of which will cost me more than 50,000 cordobas—was not the first attack I have been subject to, as is evident by the meshes and barbed wire fences that I have been forced to install under this Sandinist regime in order to defend myself from a campaign of hatred fanned by Sandinist radio, television, and newspapers against me.

'Splintering' of Political Parties Reported

PA2308002488 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The splintering of political parties continues. Some political observers believe the problem of splintering exists basically because political parties lack a plan that could make them appear as a possible alternative to lead the country.

The lack of a coherent government program and the expectations of the contra movement as a military option have caused hesitation among political parties. At present, there are disagreements that have caused internal divisions within various political parties.

Currently, Virgilio Godoy's leadership of the Independent Liberal Party, founded in 1950 as a revolutionary movement against the Somozist dictatorship, is being questioned. He is leading the party to take rightist positions and is leaning in support of the characteristics of a consumer society. That is why a few days ago the Liberal Party of National Unity led by Eduardo Coronado appeared. [passage omitted]

Along with that new faction, there is also the Liberal Party, PALI, which is a new version of Somoza's Liberal Party. PALI is headed by Andres Zuniga. This faction appeared after the national dialogue began. Another faction is the Constitutionalist Liberal Party founded by Ramiro Sacasa. [passage omitted]

The factions of the Legitimists [Legitimistas] and [name indistinct], led by Enrique Sotelo Borgen and Eduardo Molina respectively, recently appeared in the National Assembly. [passage omitted]

In addition, the conservative groups headed by Miriam and Mario Rappaccioli have appeared. The Social Christian Party founded in 1957 as a Christian Democratic faction is currently divided into three groups: One led by Erick Ramirez, a second by Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, and a third by Agustin Jarquin. [passage omitted]

The Movement of Revolutionary Unity [Movimiento de Unidad Revolucionaria] has recently appeared as well. It is trying to become a party that will bring together all the so-called leftist parties. [passage omitted]

Official Says Foreign Aid Strengthens Trade

PA2408043288 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpt] During a news conference, National Ports Enterprise Director Cesar Delgadillo has said that thanks to the aid from friendly countries, Nicaragua has managed to consolidate and develop its lake and sea ports.

This has happened despite the illegal and criminal U.S. trade embargo. Delgadillo also commented on new operational procedures implemented at the ports, which have resulted in greater efficiency and production in the import and export of products.

[Begin Delgadillo recording] It has taken a great deal of effort to consolidate our network of ports. We have had the support of such countries as the Netherlands. It has given us approximately $45 million, including long-term loans at low interest rates and donations. [passage omitted including indistinct portion] [end recording]

Foreign Minister on 4-Day Visit to India

For Delhi reportage on Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto's visit to India, including his talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, see the India subsection of the South Asia section of the 24 August Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Panama

Noriega Says 'Worst is Over,' Views Elections

PA2308221888 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Aug 88 pp 5-A, 27-A

[Report on interview with General Manuel Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces, by Carlos Moncada at the Valle Room at the Atlapa Convention Center—date not given]

[Excerpts] Panama City—"Panama receives real and diplomatic support; the support we are interested in is the first of the two." General Manuel Antonio Noriega told me this as he fixed his almond-shaped, watery, and watchful eyes on me.

[Moncada] "Does the real support come from the people or..." (I was going to say "governments," but he did not let me continue.)

[Noriega] "Naturally!"

Gen Noriega is right to be angry with me. He was talking with two Argentines and one Ecuadorean. They were among the over 200 delegates who attended the preparatory meeting for the Second Amphictyonic Congress in Panama at the Valle Room of the large Atlapa Convention Center when I rudely interrupted him.

[Moncada] "You must be very pleased with the support you have received from the delegates from 20 countries."

[Noriega] "And committed!"

[Moncada] "However, these delegates do not represent their governments, General."

My truthful statement sounded just as harsh as the truth always does and elicited a blunt response from Noriega.

The Panamanian leader was giving a reception—a cocktail party, the invitations said—with popular Latin American music and plenty of food and drinks available for the Latin American delegates, who were trying to arrange a second amphictyonic congress after the one convened by Simon Bolivar. The obvious intention was to set the stage for Latin American integration and the formation of a common front against the huge foreign debt.

I introduced myself to Noriega because I had not been included among the three or four newsmen from each country who were supposed to greet him personally.

[Moncada] "Mr General, I come from Mexico and I feel honored to say hello to you."

He turned, extended his hand, and made a sound that newsmen usually depict as "uh-huh." [passage omitted]

[Moncada] "I have seen much activity on Central Avenue. Would you say that the worst of the crisis is over now?"

[Noriega] "Look, we are always prepared for the worst, but the worst is over now. To us the worst is to be trusting and off guard. This has happened to us in the past. On the other hand, how bad is the worst? Some foreign friends have helped us. Some have done so with money without the gringos knowing it." [passage omitted]

Mexican Deputy Martin Travira Uriostegui (of the Popular Socialist Party) pitched in and said:

[Travira] "General, why does Panama not issue its own paper money and end the dollar's influence?"

Noriega, who did not remember the deputy's name but knew his nationality, came out with a pragmatic answer:

[Noriega] "Look, Mexico: If they take away the dollar they will screw us up." [passage omitted]

[Moncada] "Is it true, General, that Poindexter asked you to invade Nicaragua?"

[Noriega] "It is true. The gringos wanted us to attack the contras, and they said so as if it were an order. When I said no, Bush's [as published] jaw dropped."

[Moncada] "I understand that in March you promised President Solis Palma to leave the Panama Defense Forces before the electoral process, which will begin [as published] in May 1989."

[Noriega] "I will do anything to help Panama recover sovereignty over the canal through compliance with the treaties. I will do anything to have peace with dignity."

[Moncada] "Will you seek the nomination for president?"

[Noriega] "The only thing that interests me is Panama's total sovereignty."

The day before, Noriega had told the local press that he would not be a candidate. I suppose this answer was the equivalent to that statement.

Ritter on Alleged U.S. Diversion of Funds

PA2308151288 Panama City Radio Alegre in Spanish 1327 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Statements by Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter at a news conference held in Panama City on 22 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Today there is a new joint resolution before the U.S. House of Representatives, the text of which I have here. It states that the feeling of Congress is that the U.S. President and the U.S. Congress should abrogate the 1977 Panama Canal treaty and the treaty on the canal's neutrality. This is the draft joint resolution that is being discussed at the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. For the Panamanians who did not believe and do not believe that the objective of this campaign to discredit one man, one institution, and one country is to abrogate the Panama Canal Treaties—perhaps they have been affected by the domestic political confrontation in Panama—today they have before them the most conclusive proof that neither the Defense Forces nor the government will have respite in the next few months, because the objective is to abrogate the Panama Canal Treaties. [passage omitted]

Revenue from the Panama Canal has been diverted for covert actions. It has been diverted to pay the salaries of all the officials of the embassies and consulates that the United States recognizes as ambassadors and consuls. Even so, there are some funds missing, which have been sent to some private companies in Costa Rica. These funds are from the Panama National Bank and have been sent to some private companies, specifically to one private company. I want to make clear that I do not want my words to be misinterpreted as a charge against the Costa Rican Government, with which we have excellent relations. That company, which is headquartered in Costa Rica, has been receiving Panamanian funds that have not been seen in Panama. It seems to be very clear that the intention is to divert those funds for covert objectives in the region. Those funds can only be destined for the Panamanian opposition or the Nicaraguan Resistance. I leave it at that; I think the evidence of those actions will become increasingly clear.

[Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 0050 GMT on 23 August reports Ritter also said in the news conference that "a check for more than $200,000 was given to the Panamanian opposition." It further quotes Ritter as stating that Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan is being "helped" by U.S. officials to lead a "movement to overthrow the government."]

Ritter, FDP Deny U.S. Personnel Abused

PA2408025188 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter and Panama Defense Forces [FDP] members rejected reports published in THE NEW YORK TIMES regarding aggressions and abuses directed against Americans stationed in Panama.

Ritter and top FDP officers held a news conference yesterday afternoon to firmly reject a report published in THE NEW YORK TIMES to the effect U.S. personnel stationed in Panama were victims of abuse and aggression by the FDP.

Foreign Minister Ritter also reported that National Bank of Panama funds that had been deposited in the United States were turned over to a business operating in Costa Rica and run by local opposition leaders.

Ritter and the FDP members dismissed as unimportant the recent reports on the arrival in Panama of Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Herrera and described it as disinformation.

[Begin Ritter recording] He is a colonel who no longer serves in the FDP and lives in the United States. U.S. officials have been considering the possibility of his leading a movement to overthrow the Panamanian Government and the current FDP leadership. This is also part of the U.S. psychological warfare. The United States is seeking a way to continue to deliver Panamanian money to different opposition sectors from Panama and from other countries.

I repeat, when this information was leaked—and when I say leaked I mean they [U.S. officials] themselves see to it that the media finds out about those funds or about possible actions by former FDP members supported by the United States—the leak occurs because they are seeking a way to protect themselves in case they have to account for what they did with the money from the National Bank of Panama—not only to Panama but to the entire world. [end recording]

FDP Colonel Refutes Charges

PA2308155388 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 23 Aug 88 pp 1, 3

[Article by Euclides Fuentes Arroyo, "exclusively for CRITICA"]

[Text] Panama City, 22 Aug (PANAPRESS)—Yesterday Colonel Rogelio Alba, chief of the Joint Panama-U.S. Committee in charge of the Panama Canal's defense, said during a news conference that the charges raised by U.S. military personnel are big lies. No mail has been opened and no U.S. women have been raped, he said.

"We could not have treated them any better, [no closing quotation mark as published], Alba said regarding the way the Panama Defense Forces treat U.S. military personnel and their wives and children. No U.S. citizen has been murdered or kidnapped, yet they have suspended payment of sums owed to our government, Alba asserted.

Col Alba referred to U.S. claims that Panama has suspended mail deliveries. They want to be able to drive up to the holds of planes in their own cars at Omar Torrijos International Airport 24 hours a day, but this cannot be allowed for security reasons.

Alba complained of constant provocative attitudes and intransigence by the U.S. military to the point where they keep squatters under their protection at defense sites. First, they said they had allowed some people from San Blas to stay in the area, and now they desperately want the FDP to get them out.

Alba rejected charges that Panamanian soldiers have entered areas where there are U.S. personnel and expressed doubts that "the biggest army in the world is enduring raids by the smallest one."

The charges are so false that U.S. reporters even blush because no slugs or other evidence are presented to prove their allegations, Alba said. He said he witnessed a case in which a soldier told a senior U.S. officer questioning him: "Do not question me any more, because this is not your unit; I belong to another unit"—this was evidence he was not telling the truth.

Col Alba also charged U.S. authorities with presenting many notes pointing out false incursions and never presenting any strong evidence. They send notes referring to abstract, imaginary matters, and sheer lies, the Panamanian officer said.

Alba said he could spend hours listing violations of the treaty and provocations by U.S. military personnel. He also noted that the U.S. authorities owe the National Institute of Telecommunications $300,000 for phone calls and owe money to the Housing Ministry because they had paid with a check that was returned for insufficient funds.

U.S. personnel disrespect the FDP traffic police who hand them tickets for traffic violations. They make an excessive display of military vehicles in reverted areas. They wanted to set up a military radio facility at the port in Bahia las Minas without prior notice and have tried to adopt unilateral decisions that must be adopted jointly with Panamanian authorities according to the treaty, Alba charged.

He noted that the FDP High Command's instructions regarding the attitude of U.S. personnel are to avoid provocations.

Alba said during the news conference that his daughter was denied a U.S. transit visa for a trip to Canada while her friends received one, and this was because she is the daughter of a Panamanian military man.

Finally, Alba noted that as part of their unbridled actions, U.S. forces have intercepted commercial planes, such as one from Colombia and another one belonging to Eastern Airlines.

Station Comments

PA2408042188 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Aug 88

["Special Bulletin" feature]

[Text] At a news conference held today, U.S. State Department spokesperson Phyllis Oakley expressed concern over alleged reports spread by U.S. media that the Panamanian Government is intimidating U.S. citizens in Panama. Oakley asserted that Washington has the ability to protect U.S. citizens in our country.

Today we want to take a few minutes to prove that these reports are lies and are part of a disinformation and slander campaign designed to justify to the U.S. public the invasion the U.S. Government has organized against Panama. The purpose of this invasion is supposedly to protect the U.S. citizens living here. The U.S. Government wants to invade and kill the defenseless Panamanian people just as it did in the Dominican Republic.

Let us examine the truth: Channel 8 [U.S. Southern Command Network (SCN)], which is a television channel for U.S. civilians and military personnel living in Panama, has not even displayed their alarmist bulletins on personnel movement limitations, known as PML bulletins. Instead, SCN is showing community bulletins announcing trips, parties, special sales, excursions abroad, and warnings advising viewers to avoid certain picnic areas because of water contamination. The SCN programming, community bulletins, public service announcements, and announcements of trips to Portobelo [town on the Atlantic coast] on 26 August prove that the situation is completely normal in the country and that there is no danger to U.S. citizens living in Panama.

The U.S. lies and infamies have been uncovered. The disinformation campaign conducted by the U.S. State Department in Washington does not match reality. The U.S. State Department insists on getting the U.S. Defense Department involved in an unnecessary war against Panama. If that war takes place, all the world's free nations and peoples will condemn it, because it would be an unfair, criminal action.

Paper Lists 56 Alleged U.S. Treaty Violations

[Editorial Report] PA2308160188 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish on 23 August on pages 1, 8, and 9 publishes an approximately 5,000-word report headlined "56 Incidents Provoked by Americans."

It states that "according to official reports obtained by CRITICA, the United States has committed 56 violations of the letter of the articles of the Panama Canal Treaties dealing with the security and defense of the waterway." According to the newspaper, "the violations, which occurred during January-July 1988, are of various types," ranging from the presence of U.S. soldiers in combat gear in areas strictly prohibited by the canal treaty to "violations of the human rights of Panamanian citizens." CRITICA quotes Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Siero of the Combined Board as stating that another "systematic and very dangerous violation is that U.S. liaison officers carry firearms when they go into Panama City and Colon."

The newspaper then lists each of the 56 "violations," giving the dates, names, and details of those involved in the incidents. They include: On 5 January 1988, 54 armed U.S. soldiers from Ft Clayton were discovered near Miraflores Locks without previously having coordinated such a deployment with the Combined Board. On "9 March 1988 at 0120, a Black Hawk helicopter overflew the area of Fort Espinar at a very low altitude." On "11 May 1988, Panamanian citizen Manuel J. Linares" reported having been mistreated by U.S. soldiers Daniel Guzman and Kedni Yadao. On "5 July 1988, three U.S. soldiers were detained for being in a military vehicle patrolling the areas of Veracruz."

The last "violation" details that on "19 July 1988 at 2000, an A-37 airplane dropped a bomb" that fell "200 meters from the women's section of the Defense Forces, gravely endangering it."

Dignity Brigade on U.S. Troop Movements

PA2308212488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2025 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 23 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Benjamin Colamarco, head of the "Dignity Brigade," composed of armed Panamanian civilians, asserted today that his militiamen are on partial alert because of alleged "unusual movements" of U.S. troops stationed along the banks of the Canal.

Panama Defense Forces [FDP] spokesmen interviewed by ACAN-EFE said that they had no information in that regard.

Colamarco told ACAN-EFE that his units have reports concerning "an unusual troop movement and the presence of six U.S. warships off the coast near the Rodman Naval Base" located on the Pacific end of the canal.

Colamarco asserted that Dignity Brigade members obtained this information themselves, adding that an increase in the number of guards keeping watch over the U.S. military installations on the banks of the canal has also been noticed.

Colamarco believes that the "movement" of U.S. troops is part of a U.S. "intimidation campaign directed against our country," which has been repeatedly denounced by Panamanian authorities.

Colamarco said that he does not have information concerning rumors about the presence of Panamanian military men on U.S. military bases. [passage omitted]

The Dignity Brigade is composed of approximately 8,000 civilians armed with assault rifles and was created in late March in order to face a foreign military intervention, Colamarco added.

Commerce Minister on Crisis, U.S. Relations

PA2308154988 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2041 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 22 Aug (DPA)—Panamanian Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni said that "Panama should define its options to overcome the investment crisis, either by becoming economically independent from the United States or through an agreement with that country that would allow the overcoming of differences."

The minister said: "Panama has a decision to face: Either we become self-sufficient, lowering our standard of living and abandoning all the previous development plans, or we settle our differences with the United States to continue attracting investments from that country."

Rognoni called for separating politics from the economy, while accusing businessmen of deserting government ranks because they lost large deals with the government and then joined the opposition Civic Crusade.

Former PRD Leader Rejects U.S. Media 'Abuse'

PA2208180688 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1610 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Speech by Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, former Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) president, at ceremony in Cocle Province at which the Rio Hato Military Base was renamed after General Omar Torrijos Herrera—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Today, as we commemorate the 18th anniversary of the recovery of this military base, our fatherland is confronting a very serious situation. We are the victims of one of the most cruel aggressions ever unjustly committed against a nation. We are the victims of an economic blockade and freeze. We are victims of

abuse and slander on the part of the U.S. media, which has issued reports saying Americans cannot live in Panama because they are being persecuted and their wives raped.

By leveling these lies against our fatherland, our Defense Forces, and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the United States has attempted to dominate Panama, to make the nation fall to its knees. The U.S. Government has tried to install a puppet government in our country to seek ways of evading fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. The U.S. Government wants its troops to continue in our territory beyond the year 2000. It wants us to forget the peaceful policies of Central America, to limit our ties with the nonaligned and Third World countries. The U.S. Government wants to divide, quarter, weaken, and even make our present Defense Forces disappear, and replace it with a puppet Army that will serve the United States and the Panamanian oligarchy. Comrades, it is in your hands and in the hands of the Panamanian people never to allow these Defense Forces to break this second marriage, which Omar Torrijos said was made when he broke the first Armed Forces-oligarchy marriage, forever tying the knot with the Panamanian people and serving the fatherland's interests.

Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, on 12 August you said you would like to go down in history as a commander who preferred to stand or to die, but never to kneel. I must tell you from this platform that you have demonstrated you are the true heir to the flags raised by our permanent chief, Omar Torrijos Herrera. You have maintained a firm attitude in response to slander and lies. You have made a place for yourself in our true political history with Panamanian nationalism and by supporting the Latin American people's struggle to achieve full independence and liberation from the U.S. yoke. This will be said of you, but those of us who have been with you practically from the beginning of the revolutionary process will also proudly say we never saw you blink, weaken, tremble, or express fear. Yours has been a firm attitude, an attitude that has inspired the armed men you command and the Panamanian people in their struggle for national liberation.

Members of the Defense Forces, on this 18th anniversary of the recovery of Rio Hato Base, which we are proudly inaugurating as Omar Torrijos Herrera Base, along with you, with members of the Dignity Battalion, with government officials, party representatives, Latin American representatives and organizations, and with the Panamanian people's heart, I shout from here, my chest bursting with emotion: Not one step backward! They will not pass! Not one step backward! And as Gen Noriega said on 12 August: Imperialist gentlemen, take your hands off of Panama, because if you do not, we will cut them off. Thank you. [applause]

Arnulfo Arias' Party Vows To Maintain Policies

PA2208162488 Panama City Radio Alegre in Spanish 1325 GMT 22 Aug 88

["Proclamation" issued by the National Directorate of the Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA)—date not given]

[Text] On 15 August 1988, when Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid would have celebrated his his birthday, the Panamanian people participated in his funeral, which became the greatest homage of love and faith in his ideals; it was the greatest display of respect the people had given their guide.

The PPA National Directorate reaffirms to the Panamanian people and party members that its political line, which reflects the ideals, doctrine, teachings, and actions of Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, will remain unchanged.

As for the current political situation, our decisions will follow these guidelines:

First, party unity: The unity of all PPA members will be maintained despite the wishes of bad Panamanians who have sought to divide our party. Our permanent efforts will show that the PPA will become greater as time goes by because of our decision to maintain the purity, order, and moral values of our nationalistic doctrine and because the actions of its members lead us to unbreakable unity.

The current civilian government is subordinated to an illegitimate military and was born in Electoral Tribunal sewers as a result of the greatest and most shameful fraud of our Republic's history. Thus, any solution to the great Panamanian crisis must first acknowledge that power only emanates from the people, who on 6 May 1984 elected Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid as president of the Republic and Carlos F. Rodriguez as first vice president.

Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid was the most distinguished government opponent, and his party will unyieldingly maintain his position without any changes. In our struggle to bring democracy and justice and establish the reign of public freedoms, we will continue to seek the unity of all opposition forces. Opposition political parties and the Civic Crusade will continue to enjoy our enthusiastic support.

Second, nationalism: Since the beginning of his political life, and following the ideas and thought of its founding leader, our party has characterized itself by maintaining a nondemagogical nationalistic position. This is reflected in our struggle to preserve our customs, folklore, and linguistic traditions and our legal position regarding domestic issues and international relations. We must return to them; we must maintain them and end false positions that have led our country backward in all aspects of life.

The origins of the PPA doctrine, proclaimed by Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid on 22 December 1939, are rooted in healthy and serene Panamenist ideals based on research and study of our geography, geology, fauna, history, and ethnic components. Only in this way will we be able to achieve excellent, well-balanced institutions and a perfect government producing the greatest happiness, security, and social and political stability.

Finally, we report to the citizens that the void left by the deeply felt and painful death of Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid in the party's Presidency and National Directorate will not be filled until otherwise mandated at the upcoming PPA national convention, which we will call in due time. We believe his position is irreplaceable because it belongs to the great guide and authentic leader of the Panamanian people.

In keeping with current PPA statutes, the first vice president will assume the party's representation.

[Signed] National Directorate:
Jorge Pacifico Adames, first vice president
Francisco Artola, second vice president
Hildebrando Nicosia Perez, secretary general
Guillermo Endara, assistant secretary general
Carlos Greco, treasurer
Jose Salvador Munoz, member

Arias' Widow 'Does Not Aspire' to Leadership

PA2408033588 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Aug 88 pp 1, A-8

[Article By James Aparicio]

[Excerpts] Yesterday a spokesman for the opposition Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA) told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that the widow of three-time president Arnulfo Arias "does not aspire" to lead the organization.

"From our talks with her, we can say that she is a widow experiencing great sorrow," PPA's Deputy Secretary General Guillermo Endara said in regard to Mireya Moscoso.

Moscoso, 42, was at one time mentioned as her husband's successor in the PPA, the country's biggest opposition party, like Argentina's Evita Peron and the Philippines' Corazon Aquino.

"She has expressed a desire for the time being to retire to private life. She does not aspire to any leadership role," Endara said.

Endara said that Dr Arias' successors are "the Panamanian people and the Panamenist Party," which he leaves to the country.

"The spirit of Panamenism is not an inheritance of one or of several groups. It belongs to all the Panamanian people," Endara said. He denied that divisions exist within the party. [passage omitted]

Endara minimized the importance of the latest statements by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, and he asked the Panamanian people not to take the upcoming elections lightly "since there are now many things to resolve in the coming days, weeks, and months." [passage omitted]

Esquivel Comments on Solving Political Crisis

PA2308035188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2230 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Panama City, 22 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Today deposed Panamanian Vice President Roderick Esquivel said the solution to the Panamanian crisis "is political" and that "it does not necessarily" involve the removal of General Manuel Antonio Noriega from the military command.

Esquivel made the above statements today when he delivered the minutes of the recent Liberal Party convention, which confirmed him as the party president, to the Electoral Tribunal.

According to the deposed vice president, "the Panamanian situation is deteriorating day by day" and it is necessary to "reconstruct the country."

However, Esquivel added that if the crisis is not solved soon, the main and "first point" of discussion could be Noriega's dismissal.

Esquivel was removed from office by the Panamanian Legislative Assembly on 25 February for not fulfilling his duties as Panamanian vice president, a few minutes after former Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle was deposed because he tried to dismiss Noriega.

Esquivel said it is necessary "to democratize the country." Otherwise, he added, "we are heading to our destruction."

On Convention, Parties

PA2308190488 Panama City Radio Alegre in Spanish 1302 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Interview with Liberal Party President Roderick Esquivel by Ramon Jimenez Velez at the Electoral Tribunal in Panama City on 22 August—recorded]

[Text] [Jimenez] Dr Esquivel, could you tell me why you are at the Electoral Tribunal when it's almost 1500?

[Esquivel] I am here on a routine mission to present the documents pertaining to the Liberal convention held a week ago at the Majestic Theater in Panama City, as was duly announced. These documents report the details of

the Liberal Party's plebiscite to elect new convention delegates as mandated by the party's National Directorate, thus reorganizing its cadres. The new board of directors is no different than the outgoing board, because the laws have not changed. There are four vice presidents: Jorge Riva, Jose Cardona Mas, Jose Agustin Arango, and Pedro Rueda; the finance secretary is Lenin Sucre; the secretary of documents is Rafael Fernandez Lara, who was reelected; the executive secretary is Oscar Ucroz; and I, Roderick Esquivel, was reelected as the party's president for the next 5 years.

[Jimenez] What were the circumstances of the plebiscite to elect convention delegates? Does such an activity fall within party statutes and regulations?

[Esquivel] The Liberal Party names its convention delegates every 5 years. In April, the delegates' legal mandate ended. The party's laws specify that a new plebiscite and ordinary convention must be held, subject to affirmative and reglementary approval by the National Political Directorate and the National Directorate. Both mandates were acknowledged; the Executive Commission was authorized to organize the plebiscite, and a national commission called the plebiscite. This nationwide plebiscite had very little media coverage, because the media that cover democratic political events have been totally eliminated by the government. However, the Liberals had sufficient information regarding the plebiscite, and it was confirmed that on this occasion, the Liberals voted throughout the nation in much larger numbers than recorded during the two previous plebiscites.

The delegates were later called for their credentials, and using the authority bestowed upon them by the party's statutes and the electoral law, they called a national convention to reform their entire organization. The event was very pleasant and legal, and this afternoon I am presenting all the documents to the Electoral Tribunal.

[Jimenez] The Electoral Tribunal recently recognized Arnulfo Escalona's Authentic Liberal Party, which is now preparing to fulfill the tribunal's remaining legal requirements, including a constitutive convention. For many people, a new Liberal Party implies that the Liberals are divided and their efforts diminished because they are forming small groups instead of one large Liberal Party. What effect will this have on your party?

[Esquivel] Our party's new political directorate has issued an official resolution congratulating the Authentic Liberal Party in a very sincere and brotherly manner for having achieved official recognition by the Electoral Tribunal. We feel the party deserves this recognition because of the many years it fought for legal status. The Liberal Party's position is that being an opposition party, and having very few differences with the Authentic Liberal Party, we are pleased with their registration and hope that as separate parties linked by deep ideological ties, we can work toward the well-being of liberalism and the country.

[Jimenez] Another group that seems to have strong liberal inclinations is Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement]. It is said there are strong ties between the Liberal Party you head and Molirena. What do you say to this?

[Esquivel] The Liberal Party has requested that Liberal International recognize Molirena as a genuinely liberal party that should be allowed to participate in international meetings. We plan to do the same with the Authentic Liberal Party, because these are genuinely liberal parties, and we are the first to acknowledge this.

[Jimenez] A final question, Dr Esquivel. You said the convention on Sunday established a structural change within the party's directorates. What are the most immediate objectives of this new structure henceforth?

[Esquivel] Our immediate objective is to achieve a complete, universal definition as the Panamanian political opposition with a view to reconquering democracy. We would like to see the entire opposition united on this issue. There will be obstacles and undercurrents; we are viewed as a party that was involved in the National Democratic Union [UNADE], but it is generally known that our participation was sincere, that more than any other party we had a lot to lose, and we have stated that we will not exchange our principles and democratic calling for bureaucratic reasons or personal benefit.

Having proven this, I do not believe there will be an undercurrent among the opposition parties we have approached in a brotherly manner, seeking unity and attempting to remove any obstacle that may prevent the Panamanian opposition from working together and reconquering democracy. By reconquering democracy, we will have to rebuild this country, and I believe the Panamanian people have high hopes that Panama's politicians will provide an answer favorable to the fatherland, that we will demonstrate that if we love our party, we love Panama even more.

Our great responsibility is to rebuild democracy upon new institutions, upon bases that will give the economy enough room for recovery, that will generate wealth and well-being, with the mentality that hard-working Panamanians should participate in that wealth. I believe that united in this position we can reconquer Panama, gain credibility for our government, and achieve the country's prompt recovery.

Argentina

Alfonsin To Decide on Military Salaries

PY2308170488 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1412 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Aug (DYN)—In the next few hours, President Raul Alfonsin will make a decision on salary and budgetary policy for the military sector. In doing so Alfonsin will in practice mediate in the confrontation between Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena and Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille over that policy. There are unconfirmed rumors that some high-ranking military officers might resign if a satisfactory solution is not reached.

The joint chiefs of staff of the three Armed Forces services have, in recent days, informed Minister Jaunarena about the difficult situation created in their units over economic problems and noncompliance with previous agreements made with the Economy Ministry. The agreements deal with the disbursement of funds for the indispensable maintenance of weapons and installations.

The military leaders also informed Jaunarena that officers under their command are annoyed about the repeated summons of officers to appear in various federal courts as witness in the trials for human rights violations during the antisubversive war. The officers believed that they would be spared those appearances after the promulgation of the due obedience and amnesty laws.

The joint staff commanders may have also told Minister Jaunarena about the difficult situation they have to face with their subordinates in the wake of promises to increase salaries by bringing them in line with judiciary branch salaries. These promises cannot be fulfilled because of Minister Sourrouille's refusal to provide funds for such increases.

This morning a highly placed source expressed his confidence that the problem can be resolved, thus avoiding the resignation of high-ranking officers.

Yesterday President Alfonsin was informed of this situation by Minister Jaunarena, twice, and by Lieutenant General Jose Caridi, Army joint chief of staff.

Today at 1000 Caridi met with Minister Jaunarena as is routine every Tuesday. Meanwhile, Admiral Ramon Arosa, Navy joint chief of staff, who returned from the United States yesterday, talked with members of his staff and was briefed on the situation. These meetings were not officially announced.

Reportedly, Ministers Jaunarena and Sourrouille had a strong confrontation last Friday after the latter said that the promised salary increases for Armed Forces members would be reduced by 50 percent due to budgetary difficulties and necessary expenditure cuts.

Jaunarena may have objected to that argument on the grounds that the salary increases have been officially announced, through wires or personal visits to the various units, after they were confirmed by Minister Sourrouille.

Yesterday morning Jaunarena conveyed the dissatisfaction of the military to Alfonsin at 1800; he met again with President Alfonsin, this time for 2 hours. Caridi, who was at the joint staff office with General Teodoro Waldner and the chiefs of the other services, was summoned to the Olivos residence to participate in that meeting.

Sources revealed that Caridi told Alfonsin of his concern over the noncompliance with promises made by the Economy Ministry to provide funds for arms and installations maintenance. Caridi also pointed out to Alfonsin that military salaries have drastically shrunk—reportedly by 126 percent—due to the economic policy and inflation since early this year. He also told Alfonsin that should this petition go unattended, some high-ranking officers might resign.

In view of this situation, which was confirmed by Jaunarena, President Alfonsin reportedly asked Caridi "to keep things calm" to give him time to analyze the salary policy and make a final decision in that regard.

Before meeting with Alfonsin, Minister Jaunarena had separately talked with Gen Teodoro Waldner, Armed Forces joint chief of staff; Jose Caridi, Army joint chief of staff; Adm Ramon Arosa, Navy joint chief of staff; and General Ernesto Crespo, Air Force joint chief of staff.

Resignations Threatened

PY2408013088 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2356 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Aug (DYN)—Tonight President Raul Alfonsin was trying to find a formula to overcome the sharp confrontation between the Economy and Defense Ministries over the salary increases that have been promised to the members of the Armed Forces and to prevent Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena and the four chiefs of staff of the Armed Forces from resigning.

Jaunarena harshly rebuked Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille for not having respected a salary readjustment guideline that had been promised to the Armed Forces and was to have gone into effect as of June 1988. The failure to implement this guideline has decreased the purchasing power of Armed Forces salaries, very reliable sources have said.

An Army lieutenant currently earns 1,800 australes a month; a general earns 7,200; and a lieutenant general, such as Caridi, earns 12,000 australes a month.

Last May Sourrouille promised Jaunarena that he would try to readjust the salaries of the military with monthly increases based on the inflation rate. Jaunarena informed the chiefs of the Armed Forces of this promise, and they in turn officially informed all ranks through radiograms, the sources added.

The atmosphere became more tense in June, when salaries were increased, but by only 6 percent under that month's inflation rate.

The same policy was repeated in July, but this time the increase amounted to 8 percent less than the inflation rate.

Due to its particular nature, the situation is much more crucial in the Army, where in a critical report the commanders of units warned their superiors that they could not maintain the appropriate levels of discipline and authority to carry on with this year's plans, according to Army officers.

The same situation occured in the Navy and the Air Force, but the tense situation in the Army, which is still trying to overcome the Holy Week and Monte Caseros crises and the disciplinary actions that followed, was of great concern to General Caridi, who gave a complete report to the defense minister.

A general said that military circles were following this issue with concern because of its possible public repercussions. They fear that the problem "may lead to a wrong interpretation by the public."

The general added that "this can lead to political action to make us look like a military gang pressuring on one more issue."

This opinion was shared by Defense Ministry officials. One official said: "The problem is that Sourrouille made a promise that he did not fulfill, and we must now face the consequences."

The chiefs of staff sent radiograms and information to the chiefs of units throughout the country, explaining their concern about the problem and recommending that everyone remain calm in this critical salary situation.

Yesterday and today Minister Jaunarena held separate meetings with the military commands and with President Alfonsin.

The chiefs of staff made it clear to the minister that their situation would become unbearable if a way was not found to pay the August salary increase, and in that event, they would be willing to resign.

According to the informants, this decision by the chiefs of staff would be accompanied by requests for retirement of the highest officials of the three branches of the Armed Forces. This information was conveyed to the defense minister.

The sources revealed that Jaunarena explained this problem to President Alfonsin and that Gen Caridi also gave the same explanation. On 19 August a harsh dialogue between Jaunarena and Sourrouille turned into a confrontation.

During that meeting Sourrouille did not provide any solutions for August, but also he told Jaunarena that the planned salary increase should be reduced by 50 percent for the members of the Armed Forces because of budget problems and the need to cut expenditures.

On the morning of 22 August, Jaunarena expressed his concern and disclosed details of his confrontation with Sourrouille to President Alfonsin, with whom he met again around 1800 in the company of Gen Caridi, who was expressly called to the Olivos residence when Alfonsin was meeting Joint Chief of Staff General Teodoro Waldner and the chiefs of the three branches of the Armed Forces.

In face of the requests made by Jaunarena and Caridi, Alfonsin reportedly promised a quick evaluation of the situation and a solution to the problem in the next few hours. This may occur tonight or tomorrow.

According to political observers, it will be very difficult for the president "to resolve" the problem. On one side, he has the military problem and the difficult situation in the Armed Forces. On the other side, he has the entire government's credibility, which depends on adjusting to the new austerity policy by cutting public expenditures and keeping the budget from expanding. He must also recognize the support he has expressed for Sourrouille on several occasions despite the problems.

People close to Jaunarena said that the problem goes back to the times before the "Primavera" plan went into effect, and that the salary increase is outside of guidelines for the new anti-inflationary plan because it was granted before the new plan.

Joint Committees To Control Public Spending

PY2308131988 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1855 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Aug (NA)—Today the Argentine Government voiced its "deep concern" about the need to maintain the "stability" of prices until the end of September and decided to create, with the cooperation of the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) and the Argentine Chamber of Commerce (CAC), four committees aimed at controlling public accounts and streamlining the administrative apparatus.

The government also reiterated that economic variables "will not be frozen" even if the anti-inflationary plan does not yield the expected results in the short term.

These were the conclusions of this morning's 2-hour meeting of the economic policy follow-up commission. The commission was presided over by President Raul Alfonsin. The meeting was held at the Olivos residence.

Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea, UIA top leaders Eduardo de la Fuente and Gilberto Montagna, and CAC leaders Carlos de la Vega and Victor Savanti participated in the meeting.

According to businessman De la Vega, President Alfonsin voiced his "deep concern" about the need to maintain the stability of prices until 30 September, which is the deadline for the first stage of the agreement reached between the government and the CAC and UIA within the anti-inflationary plan, which was launched earlier this month.

Alfonsin also requested "efforts by the business sector" to prevent the increase of prices beyond the authorized level.

The businessmen "successfully" proposed the need to implement mechanisms to control the administration through specially created committees, which will meet every 15 days.

One of these committees will control public accounts, state expenses, and the fulfillment of budget guidelines; the second committee will supervise the Central Bank quasi-fiscal [cuasifiscal] deficit; and the third committee will monitor the streamlining of the administration within the presidential General Secretariat.

A fourth committee headed by Finance Ministry Secretary Mario Brodersohn will analyze the possibility of carrying out "a comprehensive tax reform," which the Argentine business sector has requested on several occasions.

At the end of the meeting, De la Fuente stressed that the UIA will maintain "its position of critical support" for the so-called Primavera plan, but he said it would be "very premature" to express an opinion.

De la Fuente said that there is "the best good will" to support this program, but he stressed that "the success of the plan depends on the public sector's compliance."

He added that efforts are being made "to channel the plan through the proper channels because, otherwise, the economy will suffer hyperinflation."

He concluded by saying that the success of the program "absolutely" depends on "the state's fulfillment of its important role," that is, the reduction of expenses and the control of its deficit.

CGT To Hold Nationwide General Strike 9 Sep

PY2308234888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1902 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Aug (TELAM)—The Central Committee Confederation of the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] has decided to hold a general strike throughout the entire country on 9 September. In this capital the strike will last 14 hours, starting with a march toward Plaza de Mayo at 1000. In the provinces, the strike procedures will be decided by the regional CGT in accordance with local situations.

This strike, the 12th by the CGT since the current government came to power, was proposed by the CGT Executive Board and approved by the Central Committee Confederation, which met today for over 2 hours in CGT headquarters at 802 Azopardo Street in Buenos Aires.

The meeting of the Central Committee Confederation was attended by 208 representatives of 118 unions that are members of the CGT. The committee also decided that the regional CGT organizations throughout the country will decide on the type of strike and march according to each zone. A call was also made to provincial delegations to come to the federal capital to take part in the march.

CGT leader Saul Ubaldini indicated that the regional delegations will hold a plenum at the CGT headquarters in Buenos Aires on 26 August to ensure the success of the strike and to implement the necessary measures.

Ubaldini also said that the CGT decided to invite the participation of the political parties and business organizations that on 7 June 1988 signed with the CGT the proposal called Toward a Pact for Socioeconomic Changes.

Ubaldini said for that purpose the CGT leadership was invited by the National Justicialist Movement to meet in its headquarters at 1134 Callao Street at 1900 this evening to plan the details of the strike.

In addition to all the members of the CGT Executive Board, Carlos Alderete and Oscar Lescano (Light and Power Union), Roberto Digon (Tobacco Workers Union), Osvaldo Borda (Rubber Workers Union), and Juan Jose Zanola (Bank Workers Union) attended the meeting of the Central Committee Confederation. Lorenzo Miguel, leader of the Metalworkers Union (UOM), did not attend the meeting.

Lawsuit Filed on Army Purchase of U.S. 'System'

PY2308034288 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Ricardo Molinas, the national prosecutor for administrative affairs, has filed a lawsuit against former Army Commander in Chief Cristino Nicolaides on

charges of having ordered the burning of documents on commercial transactions between the Argentine Army and the United States in 1983. The transactions reportedly took place in 1979, when Nicolaides took part in the deal in his capacity as commander of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The prosecutor charged Nicolaides with illegal destruction of public documents, which is a crime punishable under the penal code. The investigations, which have been conducted by Molinas, assistant attorney Carlos Olivieri, and secretary Carlos Ruiz, were prompted by an anonymous report.

The investigation involves several purchases of an industrialized system [sistema industrializado] that was bought directly from the United States for a total of approximately $100 million.

NASA To Cooperate With Satellite Launching

PY2308215688 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1900 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Aug (NA)—Today sources at the Science and Technology Secretariat revealed that a scientific satellite made in the country with NASA cooperation would be put into orbit in 1992.

The sources added that the project has the support of the Education and Justice Ministry and Defense Ministry through their scientific and technical organizations.

The satellite, which will be named SAC-1, has been considered of interest by NASA.

The sources indicated that it will be an Argentine-U.S. project, within the framework of bilateral cooperation, in which NASA will provide the rocket and its launching and Argentina will develop and build the satellite.

The SAC-1 will conduct solar observations based on the scientific proposals of researchers from the California Institute of Technology, the Goddard Space Flight Center, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Alabama, the University of San Diego, the Naval Research Laboratory, and the Institute of Astronomy and Space Physics of Buenos Aires.

Bolivia

Finance Minister Explains Overall Foreign Debt

PY2308135088 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Aug 88

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Finance Minister Ramiro Cabezas has stated that Bolivia's overal multilateral, bilateral, and commercial debt amounts to $3.9 billion.

In remarks to Radio Panamericana, Cabezas stated that the overall national debt as of August 1988 is as follows: The multilateral debt contracted with international organizations: $1.274 billion; bilateral debts, that is, from government to government: $2.258 billion; and the commercial debt, that is, debt of the public and private sectors: $677 million.

In the latter case, according to the minister, after repurchasing operations, the $3.9-billion-debt has been reduced by 50 percent. The minister explained that the national government acts responsibly, and this has been demonstrated over the past few years by its fulfilling its commitments and signed agreements.

Cabezas added that at the Vienna meeting, Bolivia will seek better conditions for paying its foreign debt, and thus, to more effectively service the appropriate debts. Although he admitted that at the first Vienna meeting Bolivia was granted some advantages, the international organizations and countries must review their positions and favor our country to a greater extent.

Workers at State-Owned Mines Begin Strike

PY2308213888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2132 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] La Paz, 22 Aug (EFE)—Today workers at Bolivian state-owned tin and silver mines began a 24-hour strike protesting the government's lack of regard for their social and economic demands.

Edgar Ramirez, public relations secretary of the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers (FSTMB), announced that the miners have proposed to the government plans to reactivate some mines and to supply spare parts, and other measures to prevent mine closings.

Ramirez added that after the strike other coercive measures will be taken if the government does not meet their demands.

According to Ramirez, more than 23,000 workers at state-owned mines have been dismissed and several companies have been closed since August 1985, when the current economic model went into force. Ramirez added that the FSTMB has been struggling since 1985 to prevent the closing of the mines and to implement, with its own resources, reactivation plans that are feasible but still need government authorization.

500 kg of Cocaine Seized; Drug Ring Dismantled

PY2408032488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0131 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] La Paz, 23 Aug (EFE)—Today official sources reported that on 22 August the special forces for the struggle against drug trafficking seized 500 kg of cocaine and dismantled a network of drug traffickers in the Chapare region, 400 km east of La Paz.

Jorge Alderete, deputy minister of social defense, which is a department in the Interior Ministry, said that in the police operation in Chapare, near Eterazama, the police seized 500 kg of cocaine and arrested six people.

Alderete said this is one of the most important drug confiscations of the year. He added that two of the arrested could be "important" drug traffickers; along with four others they make up a clandestine network of businessmen dealing in chemicals for making cocaine.

Alderete explained that the network imported the chemicals from Brazil and then transported them from Trinidad, 1,000 km northeast of La Paz, to the Chapare region.

Alderete also said that the police are pursuing the other traffickers who were not arrested during the raids.

Brazil

IMF Formally Announces $1.4-Billion Loan

PY2408031488 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo in Portuguese 2255 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Today, the IMF formally announced that it has granted a $1.4-billion loan to Brazil. The first portion will be disbursed on Friday, 26 August. Afterward, the disbursements will be made quarterly, and the IMF will monitor the performance of the Brazilian economy until February 1990.

Chile

Poll: ⅓ of Poor Doubt Secret Plebiscite Vote

PY2308221288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1748 GMT 23 Aug 88

[All figures as received]

[Excerpts] Santiago, 23 Aug (EFE)—According to a poll conducted by the Center for Contemporary Studies (CERC), one-third of the poorest sector of Santiago believes that the vote in the upcoming plebiscite will not be secret.

Carlos Huneeus, doctor of political science, said that 30.8 percent of those surveyed in the poorest districts of Santiago believe that "in some way" the vote will not be secret—because of marked ballots, closed circuit television control, or transparent ballots.

Heneeus emphasized the seriousness of the results, saying that if 30 percent of the voters go to the polls believing that if they vote no it will be known, then they will abstain from voting or will not freely express their opinion. [passage omitted]

The poll surveyed 1.2 million Chileans who can vote. This figure represents 43.3 percent of all the people who can vote.

The poll also shows that the main problems in the country are perceived as strikes and job insecurity (20.3 percent), drug addition (20 percent), and the lack of opportunities for youth (16 percent).

Regarding how the people are going to vote, the survey shows that if the plebiscite were held on 28 August, 22.8 percent would vote yes and 43.1 percent would vote no.

Huneeus said that these results represent only part of the national survey conducted by the CERC, which is a division of the Academy of Christian Humanism. The complete results will be released on 24 August.

'Ultraleftist' PS Factions Call for Abstention

PY2308035088 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 Aug 88 p C-12

[Text] Yesterday two ultraleftist socialist factions, the PS [Socialist Party]-Unitary faction and the PS-Joint Leadership [Direccion Colectiva] faction ("commanders") called on the people to refrain from participating in the upcoming plebiscite, claiming that it is a "sham."

During a news conference, the spokesmen of these factions, Eduardo Gutierrez and Guillermo Vera, respectively, announced the creation of a joint political leadership to firmly raise "the people's democratic banner" and harshly criticized the PS-Nunez faction and the PS-Almeyda faction, accusing them of "misrepresenting the revolutionary tradition of socialism" and of seeking to move socialism "toward social democratic or reformist positions."

The ultraleftist leaders said the upcoming plebiscite is a mechanism of perpetuation and called on the people to stage a protest on the day the candidate is appointed.

CUT Council Members Said 'Marxist Leaning'

PY2308145288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] 63 percent of the National Council members elected to direct the CUT [Central Labor Union] belong to Marxist leaning parties. Such is the conclusion 24 hours after the creation of the CUT, the successor of the former Chilean Trade Union Confederation, which was controlled by the PCCh for many years. This contradicts the statements made by Luis Sepulveda, Christian Democratic [PDC] union leader, who said that the CUT leadership would shift toward a center-left position.

Many independent union leaders have expressed their rejection regarding the creation of the CUT. Carlos Ortega, leader of the labor committee, has said that the founding of the CUT is the worst disgrace that could have happened to the labor movement. He said that the division and manipulation of labor unions are being used by the political parties in their campaigns.

Union leader Guillermo Medina said that the candidacy and election of Manuel Bustos as CUT president has been planned since 1981, in keeping with the so-called Roma agreement. The pact was made by the Popular Unity leaders and Manuel Bustos, who was the president of the national Union Coordination Board.

Union leader Ramon de Gregorio has said that the CUT only represents the labor union branch of the political parties in their struggle against the government.

CGT Leader Scores CUT

PY2308182588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] The General Confederation of Unions of Metalworkers, Miners, Industry, and Business Workers of Chile [CGT], which is headed by Manuel Contreras Loyola, has repudiated the recent creation of the Central Labor Union, CUT.

Contreras made this criticism, adding that once again the Christian Democratic leaders are being used by the Marxists.

[Begin Contreras recording] We can clearly state that right now the famous CUT is controlled by Marxist parties which have 27 delegates, that is, national councilmen. They have once again swept aside the PDC, which has 17 councilmen. Faced with this situation the PDC, which for the past 15 years has been talking so much about defending the workers, is unable to help the democratic workers.

We believe that the CUT is the extension of the labor branch of these three political parties. [end recording]

Contreras said that his organization, the CGT, is not part of the CUT, because the CGT is an autonomous, nationalist, and independent organization. These characteristics are not evident in the CUT, which depends on Marxism and which mixes politics with labor unionism, he said.

Journalists Group Calls for 1-hour Stoppage

PY2308144588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0037 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Santiago, 22 Aug (EFE)—The Chilean Association of Journalists' National Council has agreed to call for a 1-hour stoppage of activities on Thursday, 25 August, to protest the treatment given to the press by the military regime.

Leaders of this association confirmed this report today and added that the partial stoppage of activities between 1130 and 1230 (1530-1630 GMT), the third stoppage of the year, was decided on Tuesday, 16 August, and will be publicized today, Monday.

Chilean journalists have adopted this decision in response to what they consider to be a military regime "offensive" against the press. The regime has filed suits against 30 professionals, most of them to military courts, for offending the Armed Forces.

The leaders of the journalists' association reported that this decision was made because the military regime has refused to answer requests by the organization to end the trials against these professionals and to derogate restrictive measures against the press.

Bomb Explodes Near Mormon Church; No Injuries

PY2308185488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Report by Miguel Angel Valdebenito from Concepcion]

[Text] Police sources have reported that unidentified individuals planted a bomb in front of a Mormon Church in Talcahuano District. The bomb, which exploded and caused property damage worth 50,000 pesos, was placed at a chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints located at No 3856 Gomez Carreno Street.

The shock wave destroyed a wall, the roof, and the windows of the church, but did not cause any injuries.

Carabineros bomb squad personnel immediately went to the location and discovered that the bomb was made of 50 grams of an-fo [ammonium nitrate-fuel oil blasting agents] and a slow fuse.

Carabineros special forces soon raided a large area to try to arrest those responsible for the attack, but they were unsuccessful.

The police have already informed the appropriate authorities, that is, the national prosecutor and the Talcahuano criminal court, of this attack.

Colombia

Londono Reiterates Claims on Gulf Region

PA2308234388 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes, citing international treaties, has reiterated Colombia's claims over the Coquibacoa Gulf [Gulf of Venezuela]. He was responding to statements made by Venezuelan Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo, who has recognized the country's rights in this regard.

[Begin Londono recording] The Venezuelan foreign minister has stated the patent truth, which is that Colombia—which borders the Gulf of Venezuela—has a right to a portion of the territorial waters and exclusive economic zones, according to the principles and norms of international law. As is well known, Colombia is not

claiming anything more than that to which it has a legitimate right. It respects the rights of Venezuela, which has a larger share of the coast on the aforementioned gulf.

Colombia's position is and has always been that a fair and just solution to this matter be found, according to the principles and norms of international law. [end recording]

Paraguay

Local Delegates to L.A. Parliament Denounced

PY2308233088 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 23 Aug 88 p 9

[Text] A lengthy document has been submitted to the Latin American Parliament opposing the presence of Paraguayan lawmakers at a Parliament meeting in Buenos Aires this week.

Dr Hermes Rafael Saguier has announced that "the document, which contains a denunciation, is signed by well-known politicians and leading figures of Paraguayan society. The objective of the document is to disqualify the Paraguayan lawmakers, who were not elected through elections but through fraud. They are not the representatives of the people but the envoys of the regime."

Saguier, who is in Buenos Aires accompanying a National Accord delegation, said that "the document submitted to the Parliament contains a clear explanation that disqualifies the Paraguayan lawmakers, who must be excluded from the Parliament. The document stresses that the attitude of the Paraguayan lawmakers is far from democratic because they received their posts after illegitimate elections, as confirmed by local and foreign delegations who observed the farce of 14 February 1988."

Saguier added: "The lack of democracy in Paraguay, which is one of the main issues that the document raises before the Latin American Parliament, is supported by documents and statements by Asuncion Archbishop Msgr Ismael Rolon Silvero, Father Americo Ferreira, and Father Antonio de la Vega. The document, which contains statements by Humberto Leon Rubin and Aldo Zucolillo, outlines the situation of Dr Carlos Filizzola and other labor leaders who have been the victims of harassment."

Saguier said that "the evidence includes a German television film, an OAS report, and the reports by Uruguayan, Argentine, and Spanish deputies and by deputies of other nations. The document reveals that some official vote count reports were ready before the elections; this confirms that the Paraguayan lawmakers are nothing but instruments of the regime."

Peru

Prime Minister Villanueva Sees No Coup Threat

PY2308153888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0409 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Lima, 22 Aug (EFE)—Today Prime Minister Armando Villanueva rejected the possibility of a coup. Author and new political leader Mario Vargas Llosa believes a coup could result from the gradual decay of the domestic situation.

In a statement to foreign journalists in Lima, Villanueva expressed his belief that there is no threat of a coup in Peru and that President Alan Garcia, when he ends his term in office in 1990, will carry out "a democratic and peaceful transfer of power" which he assumed through free elections in 1985.

The prime minister denied reports regarding alleged meetings held by naval officers during which they had allegedly expressed displeasure about the domestic situation, especially regarding the alleged lack of political leadership in the struggle against terrorism. This scourge has affected the country for the past 8 years and has resulted in more than 15,000 deaths, according to Peruvian authorities.

Villanueva asserted that "there is no movement within military circles. There have been no military meetings to discuss the political situation. The meetings that have occurred happened at a government level, within the interministerial council for the antiterrorist struggle."

In a recent statement published by some of the Peruvian media today, Vargas Llosa said that the increasing terrorist activities and impoverishment of the country "will lead to terrible social unrest and the political result, naturally, could be the disruption of constitutional order."

In mid-July, after resuming his political activities started 1 year ago, the author insisted that Peruvian democracy is "dangerously threatened" and that the pressure exerted by the Maoist Shining Path terrorist group "could contribute" to a coup.

Vargas Ilosa, regarded as possible presidential hopeful for 1990 from a front of independent and center-rightist forces, asserted that the "incipient democracy" in Peru is also threatened by the difficult economic situation and the unjust structure of a society whose majority is affected by extreme poverty.

Belaunde Terry Denies Presidential Candidacy

PY2208160688 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0223 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Lima, 21 Aug (TELAM-ANSA)—Today Former President Fernando Belaunde Terry confirmed that his name will not be on the presidential ticket of the Democratic Front political coalition—which comprises his

party, the Popular Action; the Popular Christian Party; and the Libertad Political Movement, which is headed by writer Mario Vargas Llosa.

The former president made this statement during a meeting, over which he was presiding, at a densely inhabited district of Lima where residents were celebrating the 25th anniversary of the foundation of Popular Cooperation—a government organization created during Belaunde Terry's first period in office (1963-1968) to promote community development.

Prosecutor Seeking Sentences in Prison Murders

PY2008185788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1553 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Lima, 20 Aug (EFE)—The prosecutor of the military court trying the people responsible for the killing of 124 inmates accused of terrorist activities held in the Lurigancho Prison on 19 June 1986 has asked for 25 years imprisonment for the person responsible for the killing.

Prosecutor Juan Carbone Herrera requested the 25 years imprisonment for General Rolando Cabezas Alarcon of the Republican Guard "for ordering the shooting of 124 of the San Pedro prison inmates (Lurigancho)."

The Lima daily EXPRESO said that the prosecutor disclosed that "after they surrendered, the inmates who had been rioting in the industrial wing of the prison were forced out through a hole in the wall to the back yard, where they were murdered by troops under the command of Republican Guard Lieutenant Oswaldo Marquina."

On orders from Gen Cabezas, Lt Marquina and the men under his command opened fire on the inmates, who were killed almost instantly.

Prosecutor Carbone asked 15 years for Marquina, who alone killed 22 inmates. [passage omitted]

According to Carbone, no measures were taken to make the inmates stop rioting, nor was an operation planned to regain control over inmates, and the killing was not stopped by the officers who were there.

Prosecutor Carbone also requested 6 years for General Jorge Rabanal, who was in charge of the operation, "because he could have prevented the massacre had he coordinated actions with Gen Cabezas."

Alleged Drug Trafficker's Acquittal Criticized

PY2008035088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Today Justice Minister Camilo Carrillo harshly criticized the Supreme Court decision acquitting alleged drug trafficker Perciles Sanchez Paredes, saying that the problem is not about laws but about their application.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Carrillo, your office has not submitted any report or petition regarding the acquittal of drug trafficker Perciles Sanchez.

[Carrillo] First, I have to make clear what our functions are. The Justice Ministry cannot, and should not, interfere with the courts' decisions.

[Reporter] The question is asked because your predecessor, Dr Blancas, submitted a petition when the court acquitted another drug trafficker.

[Carrillo] Here we have a decision of the Supreme Court. This is not a decision of a lower court that is subject to appeal. This is definitive; the case has been dismissed. In legal terms, this is something already tried.

[Reporter] Does it mean the case is finished?

[Carrillo] It means that this case is finished by a decision of the Supreme Court. The executive branch cannot and should not intervene. But Camilo Carrillo, not as justice minister, but as lawyer, can and should give his opinion on this case that was practically condemned by public opinion.

[Reporter] What is your opinion, then?

[Carrillo] All I can say is that I completely disagree with the decision. This is a right I have. The Constitution grants me the right to analyze and criticize a decision. The Constitution is very clear in this respect. My criticism is made not in my capacity as justice minister but as Camilo Carrillo. All Peruvian citizens have the right to criticize and analyze the ruling of a judge. This decision is very disappointing. I was just talking to the interior minister, and he was telling me of his great frustration. He has to mount large operations to arrest these people. He has to organize raids and mobilize troops to arrest drug traffickers and fight the traffic, only to see that they are acquitted. I want to think that the justices had good reasons for doing what they did. [end recording]

Appeal To Be Filed

PY2308220088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Justice Minister Dr Camilo Carrillo has said he will file an appeal for an annulment of the ruling which acquitted drug trafficker Perciles Sanchez Paredes. This decision was made after the justice minister studied and reviewed the case portfolio and found out that there were procedural irregularities.

All the political sectors commented adversely on the acquittal granted by the judicial branch to Perciles Sanchez, who has been accused of being involved in drug trafficking and who is called the Godfather [El Padrino] of the North by the press.

Sanchez' Lawyer Comments

PY1908035488 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Today lawyer Luis Goy Freire granted an exclusive interview to talk about his client, the controversial Perciles Sanchez Paredes, who has been accused of being a drug trafficker.

As expected, the lawyer defended his client to the utmost. He said that the Supreme Court decided to release him due to lack of evidence. [passage omitted]

Spread of New Coca Plantations Reported

PY2208041488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0227 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Lima, 20 Aug, EFE—The fight against drug trafficking has become increasingly difficult in Peru due to the fact that new coca plantations, which yield good income, are on the rise in comparison with those that are being eliminated.

In fact, since 1985, 12,000 hectares of coca plantations have been eliminated, while it is estimated that there are some 180,000 or 200,000 hectares of coca plantations in various locations in the Peruvian jungle.

Only 17,000 hectares of coca have been legally registered at the office that controls coca growing. It is believed that approximately 300,000 people are engaged in the growing and harvesting of the coca leaf, with yields of 200,000 tons per year.

According to recent estimates, the underground production of cocaine paste amounts to 1.9 million kg, worth a minimum of $2 billion, which is doubled in the U.S. and European markets.

The main areas of underground coca plantations are located in the Maranon and Huallaga River basins. The townships of Tingo Maria, Tocache, Uchiza, Juanjui, and Tarapoto, in the northern jungle departments of Huanuco and San Martin, are located in these basins. These towns are infamous in the world of cocaine.

Underground coca plantations are also spreading in the Ene and Apurimac River basins in Ayacucho and Junin Departments, and in the Tambopata and Uribamba River basins in Cuzco, Ucayali, Puno and Madre de Dios Departments.

However, the Great Huallaga River basin, where the main struggle against drug traffickers is being carried out, is the most important area of coca plantations. The drug traffickers carry the drug in light aircraft to Colombia, where it is processed before it is sent to the United States and Europe.

The clandestine airstrips sprout like mushrooms, and 124 of these clandestine airstrips were destroyed between 13 November 1985 and 1 August 1986.

According to reports, the substitution of coca plantations by other crops does not interest the peasants, who are now selling the cocaine paste which they themselves process, instead selling the leaf.

It is believed that at least 80 percent of coca growers are currently resorting to this practice.

Rene Flores, a Drug Control Office official, told the newspaper LA REPUBLICA that the use of herbicides and the worm "Maluye," which eats the coca leaf, is being tested to eliminate the coca plantations.

Flores charged that large forest areas are being destroyed to replace them with coca plantations, and that thousands of liters of gasoline [gasolina] and sulphuric acid, used in the manufacturing of cocaine, are being dumped into rivers.

Flores added that this attack on the ecosystem can increase with the use as herbicides such as the much publicized "Spike," which is being currently tested.

Approximately $400 million is needed to replace the coca crops during a 2-year period. More than 10 percent of this amount should be provided by the United States.

Drug trafficking has also led to corruption. The recent acquittal of drug trafficker Perciles Sanchez has caused a great scandal.

Justice Minister Camilo Carrillo has lamented the Supreme Court decision to acquit Sanchez, and Supreme Court President Juan Mendez has expressed deep concern over the court's decision.

High-ranking drug traffickers who are arrested are usually held in very confortable prisons, and many of them have escaped through bribery.

According to the statistics, the drug has destroyed at least 5,000 Peruvian homes, and even children sell cocaine-made cigarettes in certain places of Lima.

It is estimated that 2 million Peruvians, 10 percent of the Peruvian population, are engaged in drug trafficking.

Police Official on Captured M-19 Infiltrator

PY2008184688 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Aug 88 p 19

[Excerpt] Yesterday Police Lieutenant General Fernando Reyes Roca, the PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] chief director, said that Humberto Villa Macias, a Colombian terrorist of the "M-19" organization who

managed to infiltrate Peruvian official agencies and who was captured in Pucallpa, contacted the clandestine "Shining Path" and MRTA organizations.

According to the PIP chief director, Villa Macias was transported to Lima from Pucallpa and is currently being interrogated by the Antiterrorist Directorate (DIRCOTE).

Gen Reyes Roca said: "As you can understand, the interrogation is of a secret nature. However, we are investigating a number of leads that will be released to the national press in due time. It has been ruled out that he was an important government official in that zone (Pucallpa). This is all I can tell you."

It has been learned from intelligence sources that Humberto Villa Macias was a member of the Colombian "M-19" subversive organization and that he was commissioned by his superiors to contact the "Shining Path" and the MRTA leaders.

According to the source, when he entered the country in 1983, Villa Macias provided himself with forged voter's cards and used the names of Alejandro Aguirre Carlos or Alejandro Aguirre Ceras.

When he was captured, the police seized from him a large amount of "PCP [Communist Party of Peru] and Shining Path" subversive material, the MRTA mouthpiece VENCEREMOS, and "M-19" manuals. The police also seized from him three revolvers with their brands and serial numbers filed off, bombs, and .38-caliber gun and 9-mm ammunition. [passage omitted]

Army Chasing Shining Path Column in Tocache

PY2308022688 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Aug 88

[By Edgar Portocarrero from Tarapoto]

[Text] The Army, which is operating in northern Tocache Province, has dealt a hard blow to the Shining Path. From 20 to 22 August, a Shining Path subversive column, made up of about 15 men wielding submachineguns and supported by civilians from another town, raided the town of (Balseguia), located in northern Tocache Province at about the 70 km milestone on the Marginal highway. The subversives assembled the people, about 600 or 700 residents, mostly 20-year-old farmers who grow coca primarily. Shining Path flags and banners were raised; walls were painted with slogans referring to the armed struggle and to complete opposition to the government sponsored policy of eradicating the coca plantations; a bridge was burned over the (Balseguia) ravine, and the highway was blocked with tree trunks.

The forces of the political-military command of San Martin Department, who are operating in northern Tocache Province, have regained control of (Balseguia), from which the authorities and municipal representatives had fled in panic, virtually abandoning all the people, especially the children.

There is no police force whatsoever to protect the defenseless people.

The subversives are being chased by the Army, according to some residents who have expressed their concern and also their joy because of the Army's timely action to neutralize the Shining Path column.

The (Balseguia) residents have expressed their concern to the "60 Minutes" news program, stating that the people are scared for two basic reasons: First, the Shining Path has agreed to protect the drug traffickers in exchange for weapons and money; and, second, the Shining Path supports the entry of more light aircraft and an increase in drug trafficking.

Terrorists Kill APRA Leader's Relatives

PY2208154488 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpts] According to the daily LA REPUBLICA, 48 hours after having killed a governor, an engineer, and an engineering student in Huancayo, a group of terrorists riddled the son and brother of an APRA leader with bullets and blew up the vehicle in which they were traveling. The victims have been identified as Jose Salgran Aguilar, 19, and Juan Salgran Villaverde, 32, son and brother respectively of Jose Salgran Villaverde, 37, the former Huancayo APRA organizations secretary.

Officials presume that the terrorists involved in this incident are the same ones who, just 48 hours ago, killed the governor of (San Juan de Jarpo) district. The subversives apparently confused the Salgrans and killed the APRA leader's relatives. The cowardly murder of Jose and Juan Salgran occurred at approximately 2300 yesterday when the two, accompanied by the political leader, jumped into a pickup to drive to the marble quarry which the family owns near Chala, Concepcion Province. [passage omitted]

According to LA REPUBLICA special correspondent Antonio Camborra, a column of terrorists have killed 17 people in 2 shantytowns in La Mar Province. The shantytowns of Sarabamba and Hueches were sacked and some 50 shacks burned during the attack that began at 1800 on 18 August. According to the report, a group of about 100 subversives armed with machine guns, repeater rifles, pistols, revolvers, machetes, knives, and other weapons, killed the peasants. The peasants' organization, the La Mar Civil Defense Committee, attacked the terrorists who were abducting about 30 6- to 14-year-old children from Hueches The attack forced the terrorists to abandon the children at a farm where they were found by a Marine patrol that went in pursuit of the column. [passage omitted]

EL DIARIO Director Charges Police Harassment

PY2008175588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0428 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Lima, 19 Aug (EFE)—Today Luis Arce Borja [name as received], the director of the Lima newspaper EL DIARIO, which is described by the Peruvian police as the mouthpiece of the "Shining Path" terrorist organization, charged that the police have seized 100,000 copies of EL DIARIO and have arrested 5 people involved in its printing.

Arce told the press that early this morning some 40 policemen entered a private printing shop that was printing a new copy, with a magazine format, of his interview with Abimael Guzman, the founder, ideologist, and top leader of the "Shining Path" organization.

The interview was published by EL DIARIO on 24 July and once again 1 week later.

The director of EL DIARIO added that the police seized the printed material, which had been completed and was scheduled for sale in the next few days, and detained the printing shop's owner, Pedro Leon, and four workers.

A Peruvian Interior Ministry spokesman has announced that tomorrow, Saturday, the Interior Ministry will release official information on the police raid.

Arce Borja told the press that the seizure of the 98-page magazine carrying the interview with Abimael Guzman "is part of a government campaign to create problems for EL DIARIO, thus forcing it to close down for lack of funds."

The printing shop that was printing EL DIARIO rescinded the contract with EL DIARIO for nonpayment. According to Arce, other printing shops do not want to print EL DIARIO "because of government pressure," although he manages to have some pages printed by paying extra.

On 28 July 1988, during his state of the nation address before Congress, Peruvian President Alan Garcia introduced several bills to step up the struggle against terrorism, including a bill to classify the "promotion of terrorism" as a crime.

Several local political circles of different trends feel that what EL DIARIO does is a "promotion of terrorism."

University Professors Occupy OAS Office

PY1908034888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Today a group of university professors who have been on strike for 2 months unexpectedly occupied the OAS office in San Isidro.

The OAS office, at 25 Avenue, was seized by a group of professors from the so-called National Federation of University Professors of Peru, who are demanding the approval of their association by the Economy and Finance Ministry.

Many policemen have been deployed around this building, which has the same considerations granted to a diplomatic mission.

Apparently the group is trying to call attention to itself, using the OAS secretary general's lengthy visit to our country. He had suspended several meetings due to the heavy workload. The group must have been using his presence to call attention to their demands.